



■ **Lifestyle / F2**
Maurice Arcache
 toasts Manila's 10
 best-dressed ladies

■ **Business / B1**
PAL, Cebu Pacific
 plan to raise
 fares again

■ **Across / A17**
NPAs snatch
NPA-turned-
informer

■ **Metro / A22**
Taxi flagdown
rate of P30
starts Oct. 16

■ **Entertainment / A40**
Ramon Revilla,
father of '80,' still
full of life at 77



Aglipay sacks 61 Abra cops serving as pols' bodyguards

By Christian V. Esguerra

AT LEAST 61 policemen serving as bodyguards for warring politicians in Abra have been ordered relieved, signaling the start of an overhaul of the police organization in the province.

Director General Edgar Aglipay, the chief of

AGLIPAY SACKS/A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, October 1, 2004 *** 76 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 296 P18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Solons run out of words over Lorenzo's P324,287 cell bill

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

"IMMODERATELY prodigal, lavish, luxurious, wasteful, grossly excessive and injudicious."

Former peasant leader

SOLOMON/A10



website: www.inq7.net

Gov't wavers on amnesty

Bunye makes conflicting statements on the matter

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Alcuin Papa

MALACANANG is flip-flopping on the issue of amnesty for the Magdalo mutineers.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo had "never mentioned" the matter and denied that it was discussed at a meeting yesterday of defense, military and justice officials at the Palace.

Bunye, in fact, denied that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had called the meeting to "discuss and study the mechanisms for the amnesty," as Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz had told reporters on Wednesday.

Bunye said the meeting took place but amnesty was not taken up.

"The discussion centered on general principles affecting parties that have been at odds or in conflict with the government. That (amnesty) was not discussed this morning," he said at his press briefing.

He added: "We're reporting on what happened ... and the subject of amnesty specifically [with regard] to the Magdalo officers was never taken up."

"Maybe the proper person to

answer that is Secretary Cruz, but that was never ... discussed this morning."

Earlier, Bunye himself had issued a statement saying amnesty would be considered. He changed his statement at about the time the group of Ermita, Cruz, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and other defense officials were meeting.

Bunye's original statement read: "We adhere to the principle of reconciliation with justice and amnesty is one of the instruments of this policy that can be considered."

"The President favors leniency for those who were misled into joining the mutiny. As for the fate of the core leaders, there will have to be a broad consensus on

GOV'T WAVERS/A21



BODY SLAM. Rico Maierhofer and Macmac Cardona of the De La Salle Green Archers whoop it up in the dying seconds of yesterday's championship game against Far Eastern University in the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP). The Archers squeaked past the favored Tamaraws, 68-65, in the winner-take-all thriller at the Araneta Coliseum to clinch the title.

La Salle recaptures crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PERPETUAL scowl was finally replaced by a wide grin.

Mac Cardona, La Salle's spittish leader, threw his arms into the air and spun deliriously at the buzzer as the Archers bagged the

67th UAAP championship by unseating the defending champion Far Eastern U Tamaraws with a dramatic 68-65 victory yesterday at the jam-packed Araneta Coliseum.

It was a championship not too many predicted for the Archers until sophomore JV Ca-

LA SALLE/A11

First-time parents set for 4, get 3

By Tarra V. Quismundo

JOSE Cervantes was barely prepared to have even just one child. Yesterday, his wife Jocelyn delivered triplets.

After hours of waiting, Jose was relieved that Jocelyn was doing fine. "Masaya ako [I'm happy]," he said. And then reality set in, a little too fast.

"Ang liliit nila ... awang-awa ako [They're so tiny, they look pitiful]," the first-time father said.

The babies were born by caesarean section, two months premature, at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila. They weighed an average of 1.3 kilos each, not even half the normal birth weight of 3 to 3.5 kilos.

"Hilaw pa [underdeveloped]," said

FIRST-TIME/A18



EARNING only P300 daily, if at all, part-time waiter Jose Cervantes, father of the triplets born prematurely at the Jose Fabella Memorial Medical Center on Thursday, is desperately seeking help.

GMA: Keep the faith, ignore doomsayers

By Connie E. Fernandez
 PDI Visayas Bureau
 and Michelle V. Remo

"CHALLENGES."

President Macapagal-Arroyo countered the gloomy forecast on the economy peddled by "doomsayers."

The forecast on the country's economic future, the high oil prices and the fluctuation in the exchange rate should be considered "challenges," Ms. Arroyo said.

She expressed confidence that "through our resiliency, resourcefulness and determination to beat the odds, our steady growth prospects should be beyond our fear."

"There will always be doomsayers and put-me-downs that will come our way in this uncertain world. But if we stick together, persist in cleaning up the mess we inherited from the past and stay the course of sacrifice, reforms and reconciliation, we can

GMA/A21



THE NEXT GENERATION

The grandchild Arturo Tabara will never see gives a surge of hope to the mournful widow Veronica and his daughter Aurora as the infant is brought to the wake of the murdered leftist leader at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. (Story on Page A2)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern, Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LUTERA, PDI RESEARCH/10/01/04

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Neosilos	Cloudy with Rains
Negros	Partly Cloudy	Bohol	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Yosodan	Cloudy with Rains
Laos	Partly Cloudy	San. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Sagay	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Laguna	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains		

Pentagon kidnap leader slain

COTABATO CITY—Government troops have killed the Pentagon kidnap gang's second-ranked leader in Maguindanao, the military said yesterday.

Mayangcang Sagulle, a trusted deputy of Pentagon head Tahir Alonto and who operated mainly in Central Mindanao, was shot by a commando unit that raided his hideout in the town of Datu Odin Sinsuat last Sunday.

Col. Jerry Jalandoni, chief of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, said commandos found Sagulle hiding out with some of his men in Barangay Butelin on Sunday

evening. During the assault, the gang fired back at the government troops, killing one soldier.

It was not clear whether the gang suffered any other casualties besides Sagulle.

Although the troops suspected that Sagulle had been killed during the raid, the military delayed the announcement until his identity was confirmed, Jalandoni said.

Including Sagulle, government

troops have killed three senior Pentagon figures since August.

Alonto himself was reported killed with some 16 gang members during air strikes on his hideout in the Liguasan Marsh, a vast tract of wetlands on the borders of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

Another of the gang's leaders, Kurato Tapuyak, was killed in a raid in early September.

Sagulle, who carried a bounty of P500,000 for his capture, was believed to have been behind some high-profile kidnappings in

Central Mindanao, composed of North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato and Sarangani.

His activities and that of other Pentagon factions led the United States to include the gang, along with the Abu Sayyaf, in its list of terror groups operating in the southern Philippines.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Southern Command in Mindanao, said Sagulle was believed to have led the 2002 kidnapping of the Italian priest, Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni, in Zamboanga del Sur.

Pierantoni was later rescued by soldiers.

"Our troops are running after the remnants of the kidnap gang. We will not stop until we have accounted for the rest of the gang leaders," Senga said.

Sagulle, a former member of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was also believed to have been responsible for the kidnapping last year of Norman Sia, a car dealer from Cotabato City, and 50-year-old grocery store owner Zoila Kansil of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, in February.

Jalandoni said there was no trace of Sia and Kansil when the soldiers raided Sagulle's hideout. He said the military was continuing its efforts to locate the kidnap victims.

The MILF earlier said it received information that Sia had died in the hands of his Pentagon abductors.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said Sia was executed by his captors. But he said the MILF could not verify the report. **Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Reuters**

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Tabara slay won't affect peace talks, says Bello

By Fe Zamora and Christian V. Esguerra

THE KILLING of leftist leader Arturo Tabara allegedly by the New People's Army (NPA) won't affect the ongoing peace process between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), government peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III said yesterday.

Bello said the government panel was "assessing the situation" to find out if the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA, its armed wing, were really involved.

"We cannot rush to conclusions. And even if the conclusion would say this or that, it should not affect the peace process," Bello said in a telephone interview.

Suspected NPA hitmen gunned down Tabara, 53, and his daughter's fiancé, Stephen Ong, 19, at the SM Fairview parking lot last Sunday. Police said the gunmen were members of the NPA.

Authorities continued their pursuit of Tabara's killers as they disclosed that a witness had surfaced who might be able to identify them.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Avelino Razon said sketches of two of the three suspects had been circulated to all units of the command.

Razon said the sketches were provided by a driver who was parking his employer's car at SM Fairview at the time of the killing.

The witness told police that at about 6:30 p.m. of Sept. 26, he noticed the abrupt arrival of three men, two of whom were carrying baby ArmaLite rifles and two-way radios.

He said the shooting began as the suspects approached Tabara's Toyota Revo which was about to enter the parking lot. The witness said he ducked inside his vehicle when he heard the shots.

The witness at first refused to cooperate with investigators out of fear, but constant prodding and assurances by Central Police District operatives that his identity would be withheld helped change his mind.

The suspects appeared "determined, firm and well-coordinated" in their movements, Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., CPD director, quoted the witness as saying.

One of them was at least 5'2", between 25 and 30 years old, of slim build, dark-skinned and wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, denim pants, baseball cap and slippers, Radovan said.

The second suspect was at least 30 years old, 5'3", of medium build and dark-skinned. He was carrying a hand-held radio and wearing a beige shirt and brown pants, Radovan said.

The third man also carried a long firearm, he said.

With Tina Santos

RP to ask US to stop hiring Pinoys in Iraq

By TJ Burgonio

IF THREE Arab countries have agreed to prevent Filipino workers from slipping into Iraq, why can't the United States?

The government will appeal to the US to send home Filipinos who managed to sneak into Iraq and work in its camps in a bid to stem the flow of undocumented workers whose number continues to rise, foreign affairs officials said yesterday.

The Philippines had earlier convinced Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to stop Filipino truck drivers from crossing into the war-torn state in the wake of the hostage-taking of a Filipino truck driver in July.

"If we have made the same request to some countries, then we can make a similar request to other countries," acting Foreign Secretary Jose Brillantes said in a phone interview. "They can agree to it or not. It all depends on the situation."

So far, the department has verified that at least 27 Filipinos had managed to sneak into Iraq despite the ban on deployment last July, but their number could reach at least a hundred, according to Brillantes.



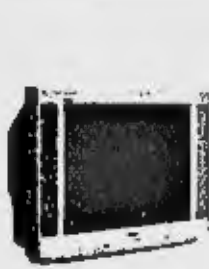
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A 3

The current Senate inquiry was triggered by a privilege speech by Santiago, the former president's arch-critic. Santiago had accused Ramos of stealing from her the presidency during the 1992 presidential elections.

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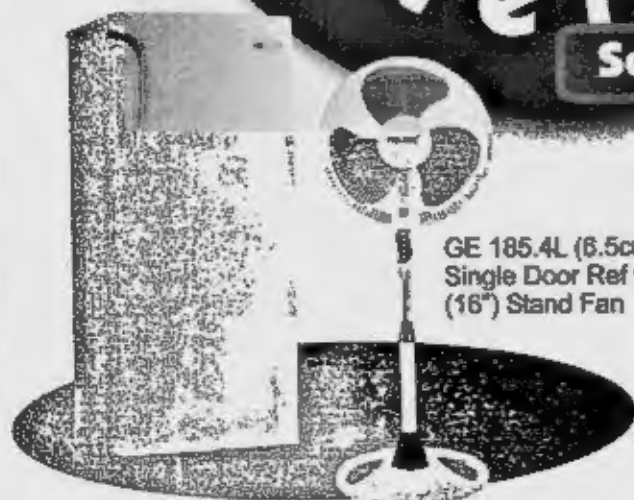
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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named three new appointees in her administration to oversee three of her key priority programs—shipping, rice sufficiency and barangay electrification.

Marina Administrator Oscar Sevilla has been tapped to head the Philippine Ports Authority in lieu of Alfonso Cusi who had been assigned as general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Gregory Tan has been named as the new administrator of the National Food Authority and Edith Bueno has been appointed as the head of the National Electrification Administration.

Gil Cabacungan Jr.

ENGINEER Farouk Abubakar Carpi-
zo died on Saturday at the Makati
Medical Center at the age of 61.

He was the former chair and
CEO of the Al-Amanah Islamic In-
vestment Bank. He was also the
department manager of the Na-
tional Housing Authority and the
administrator of the Maharlika
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He was a member of Sigma
Rho, UP Chapter Batch '62.
He was interred on Sunday.

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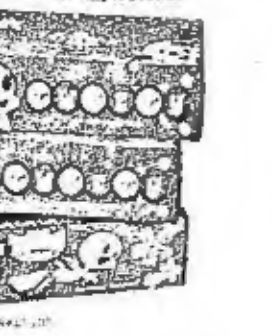
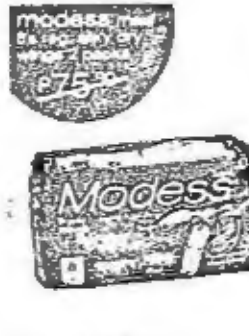
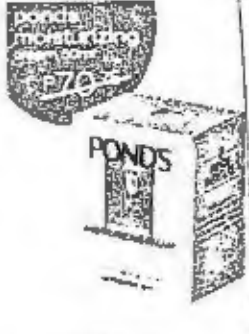


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Sotto to Revilla: Show biz stint is OK, but...

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By Christine O. Avendaño

GIVE it up, "Idol."

Take it from someone who's been there. Former Sen. Vicente Sotto III has advised neophyte Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. to sever his ties to show business while he is in the Senate, just like Sotto did.

Sotto yesterday told Revilla to give up his "Idol ko si Kap" television sitcom after a party-list group, Abakada Guro, the other day asked the Senate to expel Revilla for his continued appearance on the weekly show.

In a four-page letter to Senate President Franklin Drilon, Abakada Guro said Revilla could not be a part-time senator and a part-time actor because being a senator was a full-time job.

Sotto told Revilla that quitting his show would be the "prudent" thing to do.

But if he can't get the klieg lights out of his system, Sotto said Revilla should follow his example and switch to another TV format that was "more serious" and

"would do justice to his being in the Senate."

Sotto said that shortly after winning a Senate seat, he gave up hosting "Bat Bulaga" when he too was criticized for it. He said he then began hosting the news and public affairs program "Brigada Siere."

"If you don't perform well in the Senate, people will attribute this to your having TV shows," he said.

While Revilla welcomed the Senate investigation, he said he did not violate any laws by appearing on a weekly TV sitcom.

Sotto agreed and, in a phone interview, said Abakada Guro should train its guns instead on mayors and governors still very much in the entertainment industry.

He said Section 90 of the Local Government Code prohibits these officials "from practicing any other profession other than their elected position."

Among local officials still active in the movie industry is Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, who was recently reported to be making the movie "Mano Po 3."

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Court orders suspension of 4 PW execs

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SANDIGANBAYAN anti-graft court has ordered the suspension for 90 days of four public works officials who are among the eight officials charged with graft for the allegedly faulty design of the P3-billion FVR Megadike in Pampanga.

The Sandiganbayan 1st Division said it had no recourse but to order the preventive suspension as it was mandated by law.

"While the appeal to humanitarian consideration is well-taken, the court has no discretion whether or not to suspend the remaining accused due to the mandatory nature of the preventive suspension," said the resolution penned by Associate Justice Rolando Jurado and concurred in by Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Diosdado Peralta.

But the Aug. 24 order, released to the press this week, has yet to be implemented as the lawyers of the accused officials have filed a motion for reconsideration.

On Sept. 3, the court directed the Department of Public Works and Highways to "hold in abeyance" the implementation of its earlier resolution until it decides the motion for reconsideration.

Those ordered suspended were Pedro Termino, Raymundo Adawag, Sofia Santiago and Gilberto Reyes.

The other accused—Dir. Bienvenido Leuterio, Gregorio Carillo, Ramon Velasquez, Darious de Guzman—have either left or retired from the service. The eight DPWH officials were all allegedly involved in the design of the dike.

The FVR Megadike functions as a catchment for the highly porous lahar deposits that flowed into the rivers of Pampanga following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. In 1996, a portion of the dike collapsed prompting the investigation into its allegedly faulty design and construction.

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PERIOD: Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2004

Chinoy boss of Cebu shabu 'megalab' falls in HK

From page A1

Investigation of the Philippine-based drug syndicate.

Hong Kong and Filipino officers will later decide if the evidence warrants that Tan's case be heard in courts here or the Philippines.

Spanning many countries

"We believe this man is the ringleader of the syndicate that operated the megalab in the Philippines," said Chow. "This was a drug operation so huge that it spanned many countries."

The lab bust in Mandaue City on Cebu Island, which was conducted on Saturday in coordination with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, led to the arrest of three Filipinos, three Chinese, two Malaysians, two Taiwanese and one Briton.

An informant tipped off authorities in August to the purchase of chemicals

used in making shabu. The trail of the chemicals eventually led agents to the Mandaue lab. After a monthlong surveillance, government agents swooped down on the lab.

Authorities said shabu produced in the Mandaue lab was being shipped all over the region, particularly Australia, Japan and New Zealand where, according to Chow, there are large markets for the speed-based stimulant.

Mobile

"The point with these new gangs is that they never work in one place—they are all over the region, where there are markets," Chow told Agence France-Presse.

"It is the nature of the business today. They are very mobile," he added.

The Philippine-based syndicate is believed to be among the four largest operating in Asia and its exposure was a credit to international cooperation

among police and customs agencies, said Ben Leung, head of Hong Kong's customs drugs investigation team.

"We have been actively pursuing this investigation with agencies from all over the world since May," Leung said. "It is a very successful operation and shows how effective and essential a multinational approach is to fighting drugs these days."

Restructure

Authorities believe economics has forced illegal drug syndicates in the region to restructure over the past few years around megalabs built in developing countries where law enforcement is perceived to be weak.

Other labs have been found in Fiji and Malaysia, Chow said.

The investigation, involving law enforcement teams from the United States, Philippines, Macau and Hong Kong, continues. **AFP**

Solon runs out of words over ...

From page A1

and now party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano (Anakpawis) yesterday spouted these words in outrage over the P324,287 in cellular phone bills that former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo had charged to the government.

Wait, there's more.

"Extravagant, indiscriminate, fishy."

This from Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) secretary general Danilo Ramos, expressing disgust that Lorenzo had made Livcor, a livelihood agency attached to the Department of Agriculture, pay for private trips in a Lear jet. The tab—"over P440,000."

Both accusers brandished audit reports to back up their claims.

Mariano released a copy of a memorandum written by Dennis Isip, resident auditor of the Commission on Audit at the state-run Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., to which Lorenzo had charged the phone expenses. As agriculture chief, Lorenzo was also chair of Quedan.

Addressed to Ma. Teresa Dimo, Quedan vice president, the memo referred to seven vouchers for Lorenzo's Globe Telecom payments, one of which amounted to P155,036.96. The bills were charged to the corporation's operating fund for 2003. The remaining six vouchers provided for payments ranging from P18,000 to more than P33,000.

No restraint

In the memo dated Feb. 18, 2004, Isip told Dimo: "Examination of the Globe statement of account of Secretary Lorenzo illustrates no restraint at all in the utilization of his mobile phone."

Isip reminded Dimo that a COA circular and the government accounting and auditing manual also described such expenditures as "incurred without judiciousness and economy."

As such, Isip said, the expenditures "exceed the bounds of propriety."

Dimo, in a "management com-

ment," justified the phone bills, saying Lorenzo's "enormous task" of generating livelihood required him to be in touch with "various agencies under his department."

The amount was "miniscule compared to the efficient dissemination of instructions to the people in the field," Dimo said. "It is hoped that COA also considers the benefits reaped ... and not just the expense involved."

Lorenzo remains chair of Quedan and Land Bank of the Philippines.

President's favorite

In a statement, Mariano said it was "utterly outrageous, unacceptable and unjust that one of the President's favorite boys spends hundreds of thousands [in] cellular phone bills alone."

He said the money "could have been used for much-needed agricultural and credit support to farmers."

In the same breath, KMP's Ramos said the money used to pay for Lorenzo's Lear jet trips with Subic International Air Charter Inc. "could have been used instead to alleviate the suffering of farmers [through irrigation or livelihood projects]."

Charter flights

He said the charter flights, taken early last year, "violated Executive Order No. 248 and COA Circular No. 96-004, which both state that officials should use ordinary public conveyance or customary modes of transportation."

Ramos challenged Congress: "This should be investigated immediately. Lorenzo's new appointment should also be held pending the result of a full-blown investigation [of] the accounts of the DA during his term."

Carl Anthony Ala, KMP public information officer, couldn't agree more. "Our plunder case against Lorenzo involving the alleged P728 million fertilizer scam has yet to be settled," he said, "and [already these new cases] come to the fore. This strengthens our [contention] that, indeed something big and fishy stinks in the DA."

First-time parents ...

From page A1

Dr. Wilfredo Santos, Fabella's chief neonatologist.

Indigents

And so Jose and Jocelyn, while awaiting results of the government hospital's routine screening to determine whether they are classifiable as "indigents"—and, therefore, free of all charges—have something urgent to worry about.

The triplets have been placed in separate incubators. They need to be given surfactant, a substance that would open up their air passages in their "very weak" lungs, so they could take in enough oxygen. They each require a vial of the substance, which costs from P20,000 to P24,000.

"Where would I get that kind of money?" Jose wondered. The 25-year-old part-time waiter makes P300 a day. Speaking in Filipino, he pleaded for help: "I would be hugely indebted to anyone who could help us."

Jocelyn, 29, was rushed to the hospital on Wednesday night.

The triplets, a boy and two girls, came a minute apart, with the first born at 8:39 a.m. Their parents named them Joshua Jay, Jocelyn and Jonalyn.

The couple, who are from West Fairview in Quezon City, were actually expecting quadruplets. Still, Santos said, "this [triplets] is rare." Even at Fabella, where 100 to 150 deliveries are recorded daily, he said, "it happens only once in two or three years."

According to Santos, multiple births are brought about by heredity, or by either parent taking fertility pills. Jose and Jocelyn have twins on both their sides of their families.

The hospital administration has not decided whether to shoulder all expenses for the triplets' delivery and medication.

Ruben Flores, hospital director, explained that this assistance was reserved for the most needy. Otherwise, he said, "Giving birth is a normal event. When a woman gets pregnant, she and her husband have nine months to prepare for it. We expect our mothers and fathers to be responsible."



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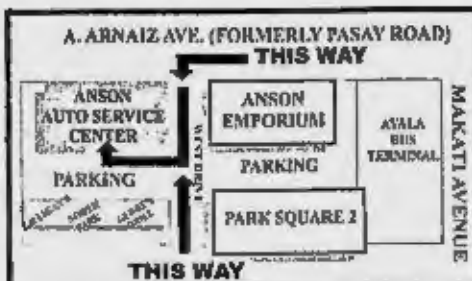
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DepEd workers want Garcia out for GSIS mess

From page A1

about their records with the GSIS, which they said did not properly reflect the status of their contributions and loan payments.

According to Alidon, the usual complaints were:

- Disapproved loan applications ("How come they can't take out a loan anymore when their contributions are automatically deducted from their salaries?")

- Loan payments not properly reflected in the records even if the loans were incurred years ago and had been paid since.

- Members not getting their payments according to their insurance policies even if these had matured.

"The records of our non-teaching personnel are even worse," Alidon said.

Public school teachers and DepEd employees assigned outside Metro Manila have to take a leave from work and travel to the department's headquarters in Pasig City to try to reconcile their payroll records with the GSIS records.

Unless they correct their records, employees may not be able to get the full amount of their retirement benefits corresponding to their length of service.

Alidon said the records mess at the GSIS extended even to ranking career officials. He said a DepEd director in Mindanao who recently retired was shocked to be informed by the GSIS that he had an outstanding loan of P1.2 million.

"We're building a case against Winston Garcia," said Alidon, a lawyer. He said the union would continue its protest actions until Garcia is forced to resign.

"I don't know why the President lets him continue in office despite his incompetence," Alidon said.

Ace up his sleeve

At the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said Malacañang's apparent reluctance to subject Garcia to a full investigation indicated that President Macapagal-Arroyo could not afford to sack him.

This "blind faith" hunted at Garcia's unusual clout and tended to bolster suspicion that the Palace feared what he would do if the administration withdrew its support from him, Marcos said.

"It seems that Garcia has an ace up his sleeve as far as his relationship with Malacañang is concerned. Can it be because, as reports have it, the questionable transactions entered into by the GSIS under Garcia had the imprimatur of someone in the Palace?" she said.

Marcos said Garcia would be forced to tell all, including the names of those behind the controversial GSIS deals, once his grilling starts.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said the President's refusal to axe Garcia only showed that he had power over her.

"The President continues to retain him not so much because she believes that Garcia is the man for the job as because she fears him," Beltran said, adding.

"Garcia is keeping secrets that involve the President—secrets that if and when revealed could be grounds for [her] impeachment."

"It's impossible that [she] is oblivious to the charges leveled against her favorite. She is protecting him for a reason, and this must also be exposed."

In Iloilo City, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casio urged Ms. Arroyo to stop treating Garcia with kid gloves.

"She should, at the very least, order Garcia to take a leave of absence while graft charges against him are being investigated," Casio said at a press conference, reacting to a Malacañang statement that Garcia was not required to leave his post despite the graft charges filed against him.

Not in his interest

At a press briefing, GSIS executive vice president Enriqueta Disuanco denied allegations that the move to transfer GSIS deposits from the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines to Union Bank of the Philippines was done in Garcia's interest.

She said the decision to transfer the deposits was made after a strict bidding process, in which Landbank did not bother to participate.

"The technical working group of the GSIS made a thorough financial and technical evaluation of the submitted proposals. As of the last day of the submission of bids, May 18, only four banks submitted," Disuanco said.

She named the four banks as Bank of the Philippine Islands, Philippine National Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines and Unionbank.

Unionbank executive vice president Edwin Bautista also defended the bank from criticism that it won the bidding only because Garcia had relatives working there.

"Unionbank is one of the most stable, progressive and profitable banks in the country," he said. "The international ratings agency, Moody's Investor Service, in fact acknowledged Union Bank's strong capitalization, above-average profitability and professional management in its credit-rating review of the bank." With reports from Michelle V. Rema in Manila; Nestor R. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau

La Salle is UAAP champ once more

From page A1

sio nailed a big three-pointer with only 25.3 seconds remaining for a 66-65 lead that sent La Salle on its way to victory.

"I was tentative in the last few games. I wasn't aggressive, pero buong loob ko (but I was confident) when I hit that shot," said the 18-year-old Casio, who even fumbled before releasing the decisive triple.

"It was a dramatic ending. It's like a script that you've been wishing to happen. I'm so proud of my boys. I'm so glad we're back where we belong," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, who also announced that it would be his final season for La Salle.

"There's nothing more to prove. I've accomplished everything that I want. Five championships in seven seasons, not bad right? I want to unwind now, take a break," added Pumaren, who also clinched the Coach of the Year plum.

Cardona played with his typical aplomb for a game-high 17 points, the

same output of season MVP Arwind Santos of FEU.

"Joseph Yeo and I proved that as veterans we can do it, that we can lead this team," said the fourth-year swingman, who finally got credit with a Finals MVP award.

La Salle was down by two points, 65-63, before Casio unleashed the big triple. FEU still had enough time to steal the ballgame but Dennis Miranda's jumper in the final 2.2 seconds rolled around the rim before falling out.

Cardona went on to grab the rebound, was fouled and put in the insurance free throws that finalized the count.

Team of destiny

"This is really a team of destiny. I've had the feeling even at the start of the season that this team can go all the way," confessed Pumaren.

La Salle forged the game's first double digit lead, 54-43, early in the fourth quarter, but the Tamaraws charged with

a 15-3 assault to knot the contest, 57-57, less than five minutes remaining.

A Yeo layup broke the game's seventh deadlock and put La Salle up at 63-61, but Mark Isip hit back-to-back baskets to give FEU the lead at 65-63, with 37 seconds left. Then came Casio's triple.

It was a tight first half, with no team leading by more than four points.

Cardona scored 12 points in the first half which ended at 32-all.

La Salle was outrebounded, 46-34, but the Archers proved that they're the number one shooting team with a 44.6 field goal percentage, compared to FEU's 32.3.

Grace in defeat

FEU coach Roy Banal showed grace in defeat. "La Salle deserved to win. My hat's off to them," he said.

In women's play, the Ateneo Lady Eagles moved to a win away from the championship after taking Game 1 of the Finals

with a 67-64 victory over the defending champion Adamson Lady Falcons.

Tin Chua shot 11 points, including the game-winning jumper in the final 50.6 seconds, and grabbed 10 rebounds. Kat Quimpo topscored for Ateneo with 13 points.

The scores:

First game (Women)

ATENE0 67—Quimpo 13, Grajales 11, Chua 11, Barracosa 8, Tiosoco 8, Ngo 7, Tanchi 6, Caynap 3, Sy D, Villanueva 0.

ADAMSON 64—Gadlan 21, Jakco 14, Arayi 12, Bombao 6, Yanez 4, Constantino 3, Lamogda 2, Ravago 2, Santiago 0, Orbino 0.

Quarters: 20-22, 35-36, 52-47, 67-64.

Second game (Men)

LA SALLE 68—Cardona 17, Casio 13, Yeo 11, Araña 8, Gaco 7, Cabatu 4, Tang 3, Villanueva 2, Maderhoffer 2, Benitez 1.

FEU 65—Santos 17, Isip 12, Rizada 10, Miranda 8, Yabut 7, Cutler 4, Chan 4, Mangahas 3, Garcia 0, Flores 0, Dola Cruz 0.

Quarters: 14-18, 32-32, 50-43, 68-65.

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54
Years

The WORLD

Editor Laverne B. Gueco

Car bombs intended for US troops kill 34 Iraqi children

BAGHDAD—Insurgents detonated three car bombs near a US military convoy in Baghdad on Thursday, killing 41 people, 34 of them children who were rushing to collect sweets from American troops.

In two other attacks, a suicide bomber blew up his vehicle near a US checkpoint outside the capital, killing two policemen and a US soldier, and a car bomb killed four people in the restive northern Iraq town of Tal Afar.

The Baghdad bombs went off as crowds gathered to celebrate the opening of a new sewage plant. It was not clear if the event or the US convoy passing by was the target.

The first explosion was followed by two more that struck those who rushed to help the injured, residents said.

Ten US soldiers were wounded in the attack, two of them seriously, the military said. Iraq's Health Ministry confirmed 41 dead and 139 wounded, the vast majority of them children.

Instability is steadily mounting just weeks before the US presidential election in November and four months before Iraq is due to hold its own nationwide polls. Attacks on American troops have risen to around 80 a day from 40 a month ago.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, speaking in London, condemned

the violence and pledged the election would go ahead on time.

Doctors at Yarmouk hospital struggled to treat the flood of victims, as pools of blood formed on the floor.

One boy lay swathed in bandages on a stretcher, his severed leg on a table beside him. Others were scarred by shrapnel, their clothes blown off by the force of the explosion.

The attack gouged a crater in the road and wrecked a dozen burned-out cars and a bus. US troops sealed off the area with tanks, and helicopters circled overhead.

Hours earlier, a suicide bomber had killed two Iraqi police and a US soldier by blowing up his car near a US checkpoint at a crowded intersection in Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad.

Around 60 people, including women and children, were wounded.

Another soldier was killed when a rocket hit a US logistics base near Baghdad. The confirmed deaths of the two soldiers raised to at least 802 the number of US troops killed in action since the start of the war.



In northern Iraq, another car bomb blew up near an Iraqi police convoy in the center of Tal Afar, a rebellious town close to the Syrian border. Hospital officials said four civilians had been killed and 19 wounded. Five policemen were also hurt.

In rebel-held Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, US forces destroyed a building they said was being used by fighters loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose

group is threatening to behead a British hostage. (See story at right) Iraqi doctors said at least three people were killed and eight wounded in the attack.

The strike was the latest in a series of almost daily attacks in Fallujah intended to crush Zarqawi's network, which has claimed responsibility for many of Iraq's bloodiest suicide bombings and the killings of foreign captives.

Reuters

COLLATERAL KIDS?—In another incident, a relative looks at four children who died when the car they were traveling in allegedly came under fire from US forces. The driver lost control and the car fell into a stream near Fallujah, Iraq, Sept. 30.

Britain won't negotiate with Bigley captors

BRIGHTON, England—Britain appealed on Thursday to kidnappers holding a hostage in Iraq to make contact—but still ruled out negotiations or ransom payment.

"Were the hostage-takers to get in touch with us, we would obviously listen to what they have to say. That in no sense undermines our position," Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

The anguish of British engineer Kenneth Bigley, 62, hung over Prime Minister Tony Blair as he faced a double test on Thursday of a parliamentary election in northeast England and a debate by his Labor Party about the divisive Iraq war.

The pressure mounted on Blair after Bigley, who has been held in Iraq for almost two weeks by an al-Qaida-linked group, appeared directly to him on Wednesday to secure his release.

Bigley bitterly chided Blair for not negotiating.

To the agony of his family, a distressed-looking Bigley was pictured chained and squatting behind metal meshing.

"Tony Blair could help him hugely," Bigley's distraught wife Sombir said on Thursday. "He is waiting for Tony Blair to say something and do something."

Blair, at Labor's annual conference, responded late on Wednesday by saying he would respond "immediately" to Bigley's captors if they contacted his government. "It's impossible for us to make contact with them," he added.

Anxious some may interpret that as a willingness to negotiate, Blair sent Straw onto the airwaves on Thursday to clarify.

Reuters

Bush, Kerry square off in crucial first debate

CORAL GABLES, Fla.—US President George W. Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry square off in a crucial debate on Thursday (Friday, 9 a.m. in Manila) that will give voters their first chance to size up the two White House candidates side by side.

The nationally televised 90-minute session on the campus of the University of Miami, the first of three presidential debates, could play a big role in tipping a White House race that most polls show is close but leaning toward Bush.

Polls indicate as many as one-quarter of American voters could be swayed by the debates, which often provide insights into not only the candidates' views but also their demeanor and personality.

After days of cramming and mock debates, Bush and Kerry were ready to confront each other in a foreign policy session certain to focus heavily on the war in Iraq and the war on terror.

Both issues have dominated the campaign for months. Bush accuses Kerry of shifting his views on the war, and Kerry condemns Bush for his rush to invade Iraq without international support and for his failure to adequately plan for the war's aftermath.

The two also have clashed on Iraq's future, with Bush projecting an optimistic outlook for the country even as violence mounts. Kerry accuses him of living in "a fantasy world of spin."

"Tomorrow, we're going to get an

opportunity to debate with the president about the direction of our country. I'm looking forward to that debate," Kerry told a rally after arriving at the airport in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on Wednesday night.

"There are real differences that separate us in this election and we're going to get an opportunity to talk about them," the Massachusetts senator said.

Bush arrived in Florida on Wednesday afternoon, touring hurricane damage in the crucial battleground state after several days of mock debates at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Dan Bartlett, White House communications director, said Bush's debate preparations were "long and steady instead of a crash

course," Bush, he said, "knows his positions. You don't have to memorize something you believe in."

Bush is expected to hammer Kerry for what he says is the senator's vacillation on the war. Kerry voted to authorize the war in 2002 but has since condemned it, even though he said in August that he would vote again to authorize the war despite the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

"The question is which John Kerry will show up," Bartlett said.

With many polls showing voters still trust Bush more to handle key issues including Iraq, the debate could be Kerry's last chance to turn around his image and convince Americans that he is up to the job.

Reuters

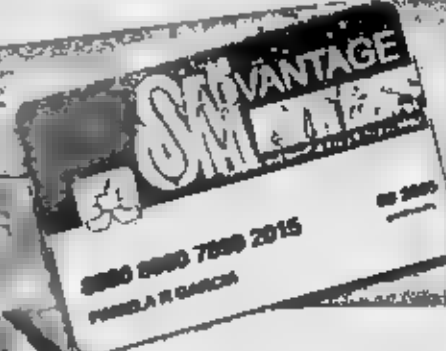


CHINA DOLLS

Newly crowned Miss China/Asia Lu Jingling (center) is flanked by runners-up Lan Lan (right) and Chen Lanfang after they were crowned in the China contest for the Miss Asia pageant in Hangzhou.

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Thailand dispatches millions to fight bird flu

BANGKOK—Millions of volunteers led by emergency teams fanned out across Thailand on Thursday in a new drive to fight bird flu after the prime minister gave officials 30 days to eradicate the epidemic.

Agriculture Minister Somsak Thepsutin said Thailand's offensive against the disease "begins from this minute," while international health experts warned that hopes to stamp out the disease in one month were unrealistic.

Thailand went on high alert Tuesday when it reported that its latest bird flu victim died after likely contracting the virus from her daughter in the first probable case of human-to-human transmission.

Ten people have died of bird flu in Thailand and 20 in Vietnam while more than 100 million chickens and poultry have died or been culled to stop its spread since a severe strain of the virus spread across large swaths of Asia early this year.

Somsak told reporters that livestock officials are directing "millions of volunteers and officials... to X-ray every spot nationwide, to cull the sick chickens and properly bury them. We will do our best to eliminate the bird flu from our country."

He said Thailand had faced setbacks in fighting bird flu, or avian influenza, blaming rural villagers for ignoring government rules that require them to inform officials when they have found dead chickens and provide complete health records when they enter hospitals.

"When a small number of chickens die, people think, 'never mind' and keep the information to themselves," Somsak said.

"But from now on, volunteers will go into every village and report every single case to officials."

The anti-bird flu drive began after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra declared a national war against the disease at an emergency meeting of 76 provincial governors on Wednesday.

He gave ministers until Oct. 31, before the cool season sets in, to wipe out the disease or face the sack. People are more vulnerable to viruses during the cooler months, and migratory birds believed to spread the illness also arrive then.

But Dr. Kumara Rai, the acting Thailand representative of the WHO, said "eradication of the virus in one month, I'm sorry to say, is almost impossible."

"I believe we won't be able to eradicate this virus by the end of October. My interpretation (of Thaksin's orders) is that by the end of October, there will be no more human cases," he said.

Thai health officials on Tuesday confirmed that a 26-year-old woman, Pranee Sodchuen, died of bird flu on Sept. 20, probably after catching it while taking care of her daughter Sakuntala. AP

Blair faces wrath of party over Iraq

BRIGHTON, England—Prime Minister Tony Blair was set to face the anger of rank-and-file members of his Labor Party over the Iraq war Thursday, as party officials tried to head off a motion calling for British troops to quit the country.



BLAIR

The last day of Labor's annual conference in the southern English resort of Brighton was shaping up to be the most uncomfortable for Blair, who has already seen Iraq dominate a gathering intended to refocus attention onto domestic issues.

A pair of motions about the war from local Labour branches were scheduled to be debated Thursday morning, giving delegates a chance to vent the frustration many feel over Blair's decision to back last year's US-led invasion.

More worrying was the prospect that the conference could be asked to vote on whether to back both motions—especially as one calls for Blair to set an early date by which British troops should be pulled out of Iraq.

If passed, such a motion would not bind the government in any way, but it would amount to a public humiliation for a prime minister aiming to win a third term in office at a general election widely expected in 2005.

The timing would be even more unfortunate given that voters in northeast England were turning out Thursday in a crucial by-election to replace Peter Mandelson, a Blair ally who quit parliament to become EU trade commissioner. AFP

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ISSN
0116-2642PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Vol. 19 No. 296

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer.opi@mailcity.com or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • Chino Roces Avenue corner Yaguez and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
 • P.O. Box 2152 Makati Central Post Office 1261 Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 (connecting all departments)
 • Editorial Fax: 897-4791 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4867
 • Circulation 527-1342 527-3348 528-0181
 • 528-0186 and 528-8213 Fax: 528-0234



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Fishing

LIKE a spotlight, the attention of the Catholic Bishop's Conference has zeroed in on barangays. Specifically, the disposition by barangays, of their internal revenue allotments. The CBCP National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace says that while the attention of the public and non-government organizations is focused on corruption in high places, the corruption at the local level is being ignored.

EDITORIAL

Our barangays get P3.3 billion a year from the national treasury. The potential for abuse due to unwise spending of these barangay allotments is best demonstrated by the cut-off amount budgeted for barangays. If your barangay has a population of at least 100 (a small barangay indeed), then your community can enjoy a minimum budget of P80,000 a month. In a country where P100 paid daily to poor people aimlessly sweeping and weeding the roadside helped propel an incumbent president to victory, particularly in the provinces where P100 is still a lot of money, the barangay allocations represent a lot of cash.

The CBCP says these amounts aren't reaching barangay residents but are being squandered away on frivolities indulged in by officials. From dining out and using public money to foot the bill, to paying for junkets more in aid of recreation than governance, the money can easily go to waste if no one makes barangay officials accountable.

That is well and good. The CBCP also makes a good point in suggesting that public watchdogs and even the public itself are too much interested in catching the "big fish," while letting the small fry indulge in misbehavior as well.

The only problem with the statements of the CBCP and its organs is that while the intention is good, the effect may not be what is piously intended. Just like a spotlight, the newfound attention of the CBCP focused on the "little fish" just might allow the "big fish" to escape, just when a confluence of the looming fiscal crisis and public disgust with official irresponsibility is resulting in inescapable political pressure for officials to start living and acting more simply. After all, a "big fish" has yet to be caught. What's more, any real achievement in netting more than one big fish has yet to be registered.

Perhaps it would be more useful for the CBCP to focus its energies on keeping up public pressure on national officials to conform with the public clamor for simple living, while exhorting, as it already has, basic Christian communities and parishes to keep focused on the spending of public funds on the barangay level. The tangled web of corruption includes all our officials, both on the national and local level. The politician at the top skinning off public funds only does so if an opportunity to skim has also been given the official at the low end of the political totem pole. One can easily lead to the other in the chain of evidence necessary to convict any crook.

We would prefer a more holistic approach. Efforts to identify, prosecute and convict corrupt officials at the top have been hampered by a lack of information and evidence on how they manage to break the law. Such information and evidence are abundant at the local level, where community members often know who's stealing what, except that they're afraid of the national figures who protect, and are protected by, abusive local officials.

Tagging irresponsible officials on the barangay level should not, for a moment, reduce the momentum building to do the same for politicians and bureaucrats in national positions. Rather, the CBCP's move should be seen, and guided, as an effort to spread the net wider, and catch all the crooks: both in the local and national levels.

Each of our 41,974 barangays has a whole roster of politicians who are linked by ties of patronage and even blood to politicians in municipalities, provinces, Congress and Malacañang. To trace the deals that spread cash among them is to tie up the loose ends that have allowed generations of criminally irresponsible officials to get away, if not with murder, then with robbing our country blind.



The legal vocation

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
 Institute on Church and Social Issues

evil, he decided to choose the latter by becoming a lawyer (he could be right on this one). We laughed again.

He said that becoming a lawyer was the surest way to become rich and then corrected himself by saying that maybe becoming a Jesuit was. We laughed some more. (But perhaps, he didn't know how much executives in government-owned and -controlled corporations were earning. Not only is it the surest, it is also the fastest way to become rich. Imagine making P9 million a year?)

Although he seemed to be joking about the legal profession, I wouldn't be surprised if he wasn't. Many aspiring lawyers hold such a view. So much so that some would do just about anything to ensure that they become lawyers and become rich. Remember the leakage in the bar exams last year? Such desperation is fed mostly by a culture that puts too much premium on power, prestige and money. Ask a child who wants to become a lawyer why he wants to be one and the straightforward reply is to become rich. And in these times of crisis, the lure of money understandably could even be stronger.

I myself went to the UP College of Law for the wrong reasons. I was there for the prestige. After all, what could be more prestigious than getting into an institution that produced four presidents (Laurel, Quirino, Roxas and Marcos) and 11 chief justices of the Supreme Court? Relatively, easy money of course, was another factor. So I am glad I left. I could have become a lawyer, but for the wrong reasons.

There is a great need for good lawyers. Working with the urban poor in the past three years has made me realize that equality before the law, in many instances, is in name only. In reality, it hasn't been so. The mere process of getting access to water, for example, could be laden with legal obstacles. Just imagine the legal maze they have to go through in their attempts to have security of tenure, which is a more difficult process. They need to enlist the help of all the good legal warriors they can get.

But there are only a few of them willing to work with the poor and marginalized. So much so that they are called the alternative lawyers. I know some from Saigun who are teaching urban poor leaders about their rights and training them on legal processes. And of course, we know the work of the Free Legal Assistance Group. But we need more of these people.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has said "It is troubling that the lawyers who advocate worthy causes, often without certainty of remuneration, are called alternative. An alternative is a second choice. You should be considered the mainstream. The first choice, the true and ideal lawyers; better yet, the conscience of the legal profession."

Let us hope that we will have "true and ideal lawyers" in the future, especially for those who cannot promise "certainty of remuneration." But first they have to pass the bar exams.

So let us pray that they did not add to the toxic atmosphere of desperation that is engulfing our country now by resorting to dirty tactics just to pass the exams. To uphold justice in the future, they have to be honest now. Otherwise, four years of studying the law would all come to nothing.

As for my friend, becoming a lawyer will be a great opportunity for him to continue his vocation, although in a different way. I just hope his jokes were just jokes. We do need a dose of them in these times of anxiety.

Why Filipinos sacrifice for family but not nation

THE ONE thing going for President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for national sacrifice is that Filipinos are naturalists when it comes to self-denial. What perplexes me is why we are so openly cynical that anyone would actually forgo personal profit for the public good at this time of fiscal crisis.

Look at the OFWs who forfeit the best years of their lives, doing work beneath their education and past jobs in Manila, to live among cold strangers for whom they are invisible, easily replaceable help so they can send siblings to school. Look at Filipino fathers and mothers who surrender to a life of never-ending work—all to ensure their children's future. Look at working students, who do a whole day's shift at fast-food counters, and proceed to school just when the rest of the world takes a break, inspired I am sure not just by lofty dreams for themselves but as well by the thought of simple consumer purchases for their folks—a TV here, a CD player there.

But who is surprised at the Filipino's capacity for selfless love? After all, we Filipinos are programmed from birth for self-sacrifice. Hey, we are Asia's largest Catholic nation, and while for the rest of Christianity the high point of the religious year is Christmas, for us Filipinos, it's Good Friday—3 p.m. to be exact after the reading of the Seven Last Words. Yes, indeed, Bedi-lehems and Epiphanies take a back seat to Calvary in the Pinoy imagination, which then proceeds to leave little to the imagination and actually flagellates and crucifies willing volunteers who wish to atone for mankind's sins (and who then get featured on reality TV).

Why then do we find it so difficult to sacrifice for the nation? During the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the Thai and South Korean governments got voluntary donations of personal wealth, including jewelry, from their caring citizens. Certainly, those Thais and Koreans cannot match the Filipinos who blocked the tanks at Edsa I with their own bodies. What's a few trinkets offered to government, compared to dear life ceded to eternity? Thus the dilemma.

PASSION
FOR REASON

Raul G. Pangalangan



We live for the family, though we die for the nation. We give to the family, but we take from the nation.

As with life's thorniest dilemmas, I found the explanation in "The Godfather." I recall the scene when Michael announced to his brothers that he had enlisted for the US Marines to fight in World War II, and his eldest brother Sonny asked why on earth he was willing to lay down his life for strangers, for people not of his own blood (and, Sonny adds, shoot enemies from afar, rather than up close, Mafia style). I suppose that being an immigrant family at that time, they were estranged from the American mainstream, felt no bond with the nation and thus formed their own world, their *Cosa Nostra*.

Why then do we, homegrown natives to these Philippine Islands, feel just as estranged from our government, as if we were outsiders shunted by this nation to its outer margins? The practical answer is, we prefer the family to the state because the family will always be with us through life's trials and crises. Its support is bankable, so to speak. In contrast, the government cannot guarantee returns on our "investments" because there are cheaters and free-riders every step of the way.

Indeed, that is so true. But bankability alone cannot explain stories of OFWs and parents who keep on toiling for thankless progeny, or stories of the Ate, a nurse in some desert kingdom, who keeps on sending hard-earned dollars to bum siblings who live profligate lives. Certainly there is more to the Filipino capacity to sacrifice for kin, and his urge to translate every meaningful friendship into kin-like rela-

tions, like *ninongs* and *ninangs* in baptisms, and the ever-broadening circle of *kumapares* and *kumares*.

The academic answer is that we disbelieve the government's call for sacrifice because the Philippine state does not symbolize for us the public interest. Historically, the Philippine state did not emerge organically from villages and townships, but was from the beginning alien to our day-to-day lives, the legal device for either alien or elite conquest. We are a republic only in name, but in reality, a loose confederation of tribal fiefdoms. For us, the state does not represent Jean-Jacques Rousseau's notion of the General Good. For us, rather, the state is nothing but an arena for the pursuit of private profit, where narrow-minded, single-issue interest groups lobby for their selfish agenda. For us, the state exists so that competing elites can have their turn at the till without cutting each other's throats.

Hence the irony. We can die for a sure but abstract cause like "Philippine democracy," but will not gamble our wealth on the earthly promise of staving off a fiscal deficit. For the intangibles, we can remain the selfless Filipinos of legend, and project unto the nation the ideal of oneness that erstwhile we had reserved only for family. But for matters more tangible, our cost-benefit mind clicks into place and asks not just how much but why.

Even in my optimistic moments, what I find more worrisome about the President's call for national sacrifice is not that it will fail but that it will succeed, because that will up the ante in public expectations and raise the bar that government must clear. Those who harken the call and pay the price will demand clean government, lean and focused. The poor in whose name the call is made will ask, "Where did it all go?" The fiscal crisis might yet lead to a truly functioning democracy, where people pay the true cost of governing themselves and, finally, earn the right to demand their money's worth.

Comments to raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph

GMA battles new demons

PRIOR to martial law, the Manila Overseas Press Club, then at the Admiral Apartments on Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard, used to be the forum in which Philippine presidents launched major policy initiatives. A presidential speech at the MOPC was almost as important as the State of the Nation Address and the inaugural speech of a new administration. The diplomatic corps, the international press, the business community and the Filipino political elite looked forward to the MOPC speech for signals of policy change and its nuances. The MOPC, as the venue for catching the whiff of change before its gale force winds struck, was the equivalent of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The MOPC was swept out by the change brought about by the restrictive political climate of the Marcos dictatorship. Its replacement, the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, has not really regained the importance and prestige of the MOPC. The Focap, organized during martial law, however, served the function of providing space for the expression of ideas and information questioning those held by the Marcos dictatorship.

Taking advantage of the little space conceded by Marcos to the international press, opposition politicians who had been deprived of a political forum by the closure of Congress, the restrictions on press freedom and the dismantling of the political parties, used Focap to ventilate dissenting views. They thought Focap was a political sanctuary that cloaked them with immunity from retaliation by Marcos. So, in those dark days, it was freedom of the press that was the last frontier of Philippine democracy under a dictatorship. Freedom of the press was a sanctuary in which not only members of the press but also politicians sought refuge.

On Sept. 7, President Macapagal-Arroyo addressed the MOPC during a breakfast forum in what appears to be an effort to revive the tradition of the MOPC as the launching pad of major policy initiatives. Her keynote was: "Let there be no mistake, I will move this nation forward and I will take

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



on whatever vested interests stand in my way."

The speech was more of about a vision, a direction, rather than policy. Those who expected policy initiatives must have been disappointed. Policy had been outlined on two previous occasions: at the President's inauguration on June 30 and at the Sona a month after. The themes of attack and priorities were defined in those speeches which highlighted the fiscal deficit as the "most urgent" problem facing the nation.

There was no need to repeat that theme at the MOPC. What was expected was a soaring theme that could vault the nation's spirits to the skies. Instead the President used the forum to do battle with "vested interests" standing in the way of accomplishing the goals set out in the Sona. She identified vested interests situated across a broad spectrum from the Right to the Left, as well as what she called "destabilizers." This category included coup plotters, smugglers and tax evaders.

There was nothing refreshingly new in the speech. What we got was the President, post-May 2004, summoning the demons she had been fighting in her past administration. What was new was the context. She put evaders in the context of the deficit. She pointed out that due to tax evasion and smuggling, tax collection fell to 12.5 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 from 17 percent in 1997. The country, we were reminded, was losing P175 billion a year to technical smuggling through undervaluation of imports, and outright smuggling. Smuggling, as an aspect of corruption, has been a bane of all presidents, including her father.

She took the occasion to warn: "If these vested interests believe they can destabilize or sabotage our efforts, they better think twice. Our people are behind me. I have their mandate, and I am here to serve that mandate for our own best interests."

Then she linked the question of vested interests to a renewed campaign against corruption. She asked Filipinos "to unite in common purpose and change the culture of corruption that besets government and commercial enterprises alike."

The President said she would be a "more forceful President" in the next six years, and that, being a non-political President, "I don't have to be popular." The question that comes to mind is whether she can crack down on corruption and whether she has the political will to battle vested interests, some of which are embedded in Congress, which is the center of resistance to new tax measures designed to enhance revenue to close the widening fiscal deficit.

The President's MOPC appearance is resonant of the penchant of her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, to seek battle with what he considered as vested interests ranged against his "Moral Regeneration" program launched in 1962. The vested interests then were the "sugar bloc" and the oligarchy identified with the Lopez family. Macapagal sought to break the Lopez control of Meralco, by charging them with tax evasion.

Since then, the demons have changed, but Ms Arroyo is redeploying her father's approach to mobilize public support for unpopular moves. This approach requires creation of scapegoats. But her father's Moral Regeneration program stumbled on the Stonehill case. (In a forthcoming memoir, I will demonstrate why President Macapagal's administration was wrecked by the Stonehill cover-up.)

Ms Arroyo does not want for scapegoats—among them coup plotters, who lurk in the dark, ready to destabilize her government as soon as she fails to show resolve in her new corruption campaign and in administering hard medicine to cure the deficit problem.

Lessons from Mr. & Mrs. Cruz

IN HIS new book "Family Planning Made Easy," which details how he helped teach rural families about family planning by communicating to them in terms geared to their rural lifestyle and beliefs, Sen. Juan Flavio Cruz recounts the story of how his "star pupil" Mrs. Cruz nearly ruined his budding career as a family planning counselor.

Feeling the need for a "credible" figure who commanded both respect and trust among the barrio women, Dr. Flavio invited Mrs. Cruz, the president of the mothers' class, to come to the PRM center for personal, one-on-one tutoring on the rhythm method, at that time the only known "reliable" method of "natural" family planning. Mrs. Cruz proved a most eager and adept student and teacher, and Dr. Flavio decided to designate her barrio the focus of a study on the rhythm method.

In the first four months, no woman in Mrs. Cruz's barrio got pregnant, compared to a "control" barrio where one woman had gotten pregnant and another was suspected of being "on the way" in the same period. Then on the fifth month, one woman reported getting pregnant in the study barrio, but this was no ordinary woman. She was no other than Mrs. Cruz, the doctor's model student!

Worried about his and the program's reputation, Flavio asked Mrs. Cruz what happened, and though at first reluctant to divulge the details, she finally told him. Her husband, it turns out, was a photographer in town and came home only on Sundays. That Sunday, he was feeling good because he had earned a lot of money and was feeling very affectionate. But that Sunday was a "danger day," and as Flavio tells it, Mrs. Cruz confessed that "we thought that a difference of just one day would not matter much. After all, what is one day between friends?"

But to her credit, Mrs. Cruz did try to follow her lessons. As her husband nudged her on the elbow (the signal they developed after seven years of marriage), she turned to him and warned him that "it" was forbidden that day. "But why?" her husband wanted to know. "Because Dr. Flavio said so," she said.

At this point, her husband inquired angrily:

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



"Who is that Dr. Flavio anyway? Are we taking him in as a partner (*Nakikisoy ba siya sa atin*)?" A quarrel ensued and, writes Dr. Flavio, "peace could be restored only by acceding to her husband's will—thus resulting in the first pregnancy in the study barrio."

FLAVIO, the community organizer and family planning counselor, learned many lessons from this incident, including involving the women's husbands in their sessions, as well as finally realizing that there is "need for considering the realities of the human factors involved in family planning in the rural areas."

The rhythm method, which involves tracking a woman's fertility cycle to predict her fertile periods, usually by counting the days until her next period (which is also why it's known as the "calendar" method), is no longer considered the only "reliable" method of so-called "natural" family planning. These days, the Catholic Church and other "faith-based" groups espouse what they call "modern natural family planning," which like rhythm also calls for periodic abstinence but no longer relies on counting days. Instead, it helps a couple predict the woman's fertile days by tracking certain signs: a slight spike in a woman's basal body temperature (taken the moment she wakes up and before she gets up from bed) that indicates ovulation, and the characteristics of her cervical mucus, which takes on the consistency of egg whites when she's fertile.

Recently, the Department of Health embarked on an aggressive program to promote modern NFP, designating the Couples

for Christ, which began as a marriage enrichment movement but has since morphed into a conservative and militant "religious right" organization, to take charge of the training program. But in the way it's been promoting NFP mainly at the expense of the other modern methods of family planning, it seems that the DOH and the CFC have learned none of the lessons that Flavio realized all those years ago in the barrios.

I BEGAN suspecting that the NFP trainers "sold" their method by putting down the other methods by listening to the spoils of "pro-life" panelists in various TV shows where I've guested and the topic was the *waking kamatayang* issue of family planning.

Let me interject at this point that I—and many other family planning advocates—have nothing against NFP. In fact, I wish it were easier to practice, so that my husband and I wouldn't have felt like complete idiots when we couldn't get the hang of it 20 years ago as we tried to get pregnant a second time. As far as I'm concerned, NFP should be promoted as simply one of the safe, effective and legal methods available to couples who want to plan their families. ("Convenient" should be in the lineup, but that doesn't exactly apply to NFP or maybe that's just me.)

But to listen to the pro-lifers wax on and on about NFP, you'd think it was the best thing since creation, and all other family planning methods are part of a conspiracy against families.

Now, the Couples for Christ is well within its rights to say what it wants about NFP and the other methods. But it's another thing entirely when even information materials carrying the imprimatur of the Department of Health (and thus printed with public funds) begin disseminating not just eerily similar assertions as that of the CFC, but also scientifically unsound and discredited information. Now that's violating the people's most basic right to information, because to insist on propagating wrong information—especially when you know it's wrong—is to engage in deception and deceit.

(More on this tomorrow)

Two exhibits

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



artifacts together. It was a coup that some of the artifacts from Spain itself which had never been loaned to museums in Madrid were allowed to travel half the world away to Manila, proof that the long historical ties between the Philippines and Spain remain warm despite the overemphasis in our history textbooks on the Philippine Revolution (1896-1898). If we were to believe Teodoro Agoncillo, there was no Philippine history before 1872 and the foundation of the nation lies in the period 1896-1898, but when placed in a time-line that stretches all the way back to 1565, these are only two landmark years in 333 years.

There is much more to our shared history that remain to be unearthed, studied and appreciated.

Ongoing at the Ayala Museum is an exhibit of objects back in the Philippines for the first time in over a century: an album of watercolors by Justino Asuncion from the New York Public Library, an album of watercolors by Damian Domingo from the Newberry Library in Chicago, and actual clothing as recorded in these watercolors from the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden. Both albums show the different types of people and their clothes in the early 19th-century Philippines. In an age without commercial postcards or a camera, these were brought home by tourists as souvenirs. That they were made by early Filipino artists is now a bonus. Since libraries are not the primary concern of Filipino tourists who go to the United States, very few people (mostly scholars)

have been able or interested enough to see these wonderful albums. Now that they are home, Filipinos should take the opportunity to see and enjoy them.

Two decades ago, I requested to see the album of Philippine costumes in the New York Public Library. They were not properly labeled and there was a small note on the flyleaf that said they were by Damian Domingo. When I inquired about photoduplication, I was advised to bring my own camera and take pictures myself. Perhaps the library didn't know how valuable they were at the time, because anyone who walked in could gain access and handle it.

Now we know better, and if people study the albums further, perhaps we will know more. The Newberry Library set has each plate individually signed by Damian Domingo, but since these did not resemble any of the costume albums extant in Manila, I did not pay much attention because the Newberry had many more valuable treasures like Jose Rizal's medical and surgical notebooks and hundreds of documents on the Spanish period that can make any Filipino historian ecstatic.

On a Fulbright research grant in 2000, I was able to do some research in Newberry. It was quite an experience to be asked to wear gloves when handling rare material, to have certain books on special pillows on my desk. No wonder everything in their care lives so long. (Last semester, I placed my books in the school library for the students' use and all were ruined by rough handling and photocopying.)

That these two institutions have allowed these albums to travel home for a visit should encourage other institutions that have Philippine material to do the same in the future. Now may be the time to draw up a wish list so that we can be inspired by old objects and make inroads into the future.

Comments are welcome at aoampo@ateneo.edu

A different Santo Niño

THE SANTO Niño (Holy Child) is a quintessential Filipino Catholic icon, much loved and venerated, a little boy vested with the most extraordinary of powers. To be able to heal, many faith healers go into trances, their voices transformed into that of a little child to signify that the Santo Niño has taken over. Mothers pin Santo Niño medals on babies to protect them from illnesses and from harm in general. And what Filipino Catholic home would be complete without at least one image of the Santo Niño?

I know there's an entire coffee-table book produced on the Santo Niño in the Philippines but I haven't been able to get a copy, so I don't know how they explain this image's popularity. My hunch is that God, as God the Father, and Jesus still remain distant for many Filipinos. The alien (especially God the Father, who looks too much like the Spanish friars), too male. When the Filipino needs succor and comfort, the gentle Virgin Mary and the innocent Santo Niño are so much more approachable. Note how Filipino mothers instill this love for the Santo Niño early in life, instructing children to pray to "Baby Jesus."

A plethora of Santo Niños

The Santo Niño comes in many versions: fair-skinned or dark-skinned, in simple or elaborate clothes. Perhaps reflecting my own personality and lifestyle, my favorite is the Santo Niño-Gala, the vagabond Santo Niño looking like a hobo, complete with a stick and a bundle of clothes, always on the road.

Gay courtiers love the Santo Niño, designing the most elaborate costumes for their statues, which are then paraded with other images when there are neighborhood religious activities, in a kind of fashion show.

The Santo Niño's popularity stems in part from its ability to be "adopted" by anyone, simply by changing its clothes. It's not just gay courtiers who love the Santo Niño, your epitome of machismo, soldiers and police, also have their Santo Niños perched on an altar and looking over their shoulders, decked out of course in the proper uniform.

Government offices also constantly violate the constitutional separation of Church and State by displaying their own versions of Santo Niños, although I have to say I have not seen these Santo Niños decked out according to the agency's work (e.g., dressed as a doctor for the Department of Health).

I've noticed Santo Niños are also very popular in beerhouses, bars and, well, what has been referred to euphemistically as "*bahay alihin*" (houses of pleasure). No, those Santo Niños aren't dressed, or undressed, for the occasion.

In several church courtyards here in Manila, vendors hawk a Santo Niñong Hubad—yes, a naked Santo Niño, anatomically correct but physiologically not quite right. Let me explain that for lay people: yes, the anatomy can be correct, but what they tried to get the correct anatomy to do, for an infant, wasn't exactly possible.

Mind you, this naked Santo Niño now comes in different versions. I've seen at least four different ones. A tiny one about 1-1/2 centimeters high, which you can carry in your wallet or put under your tongue (more on this later). This image has two other larger versions. Then there's also one where Baby Jesus is on the palm of a hand.

Custom-made functions

What powers does the Santo Niñong Hubad have? I've always felt religious beliefs and practices are very malleable, adjusting to people's needs. Ask the Santo Niñong Hubad vendors what the little statues do and they'll tailor their answers according to who's asking.

If it's a woman who inquires, they'll say the image brings good luck, especially the Santo Niño on a palm. If it's an older woman asking, the vendor is likely to suggest that carrying the Santo Niño around helps to keep a marriage intact.

Now if the prospective buyer is a male, vendors will give you that inscrutable smile. To me, they gave the standard generic reply, "Suerte" (good luck). I'd heard of other more powerful functions of the Santo Niñong Hubad and asked if it is a *gayuma*, a love charm. The vendors were mum. I guess I just looked too academic to need such talismans.

The first time I heard about the Santo Niñong Hubad, I did ask Tina Gilda Cordero Fernando, an authority on Filipino popular culture, about it and she scoffed, "Goodness, that's been around for many years. You're supposed to swallow it."

Swallow? Maybe the earlier versions were, well, edible but the ones they sell now are metal ones, and I'd definitely advise against swallowing it. It can be quite awkward explaining to the doctors in the emergency room what they need to fish out of your gut.

Anyway, the mystery of the Santo Niñong Hubad persisted. I bought a few, distributed them to my mother and aunt (one of whom brought it to her parish priest to bless, which he declined) and continued to ask around.

Until one day I showed it to the father of my partner, a crusty working-class super-macho male if there ever was one. He smiled and said it was "*mabusa*," very effective. A man of few words, he elaborated a bit about putting the image under your tongue and thus armed, anyone you whisper sweet nothings to would not be able to say no.

The next week when we met, he slipped a piece of paper into my hand and told me to follow the instructions carefully. "*Buhayin mo*," he grunted.

It was chilling: he was telling me to bring the image to life first, before it could work, and he had just passed on prayers and incantations to use for nine Fridays in a row.

Bared, dared

Our many Santo Niños, not just the Santo Niñong Hubad, tell us so much about Philippine society. I've mentioned how maybe the child Jesus is so much more approachable. Maybe, too, that's why the Santo Niño is so popular in government offices, displayed to radiate some kind of continuous absolution. I once had to go through Customs to claim a shipment of books and was struck by the many Santo Niño statues in the offices. Why, nearly every desk had one. Then it occurred to me, as I ran the gauntlet of numerous Customs officials signing clearances, that their desk drawers were all open, presumably to receive bribes, oops, I meant heaven's blessings... and the Santo Niño's forgiveness.

And the Santo Niñong Hubad? Who knows? My partner's mother claims, tongue in cheek, she was a "victim" of this Santo Niño and her husband's lethal whisper while my partner's father, when he gave me the piece of paper, warned me, "Don't ever teach this to my son. He knows too much already."

I don't believe in the occult so I've filed the spells away, together with the Santo Niñong Hubad images. We get the partners we deserve and whether they stay or not depends not so much on naked Santo Niños under our tongue, than on how we use our hearts and our minds.

The naked Santo Niño bares Philippine society, daring us to think about all our existential anxieties around love and marriage and life itself.

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Short-circuiting the electricity consumers

THE ARROYO administration endorsed the petition of the National Power Corp. for a rate increase, claiming that the low rates are not sustainable. It conveniently forgot that electricity consumers are already complaining of high power rates; the residential rates and industrial rates are the seventh and third highest in the world, respectively.

Now comes the provisional power rate increase approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission, allowing Napocor to take back with its right hand what in the past it gave consumers with its left hand.

Two politically motivated decisions forced Napocor to give consumers discounts amounting to P33 billion annually. One was the

30 centavos/kWh discount to residential consumers, which was mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA). It was really a sweetener for the immediate passage of the bill. This resulted to an annual loss of P3.4 billion based on the 2002 annual sales of 34.4 billion kWh, the discount applied only to the residential consumers.

The other was the order of the President in May 2002 for Napocor to limit its PPA (purchased power adjustment) charge to only 40 centavos/kWh when its actual PPA was then P1.25/kWh—thus a loss of 85 centavos/kWh, or P29 billion per year.

Now the additional income from the new rates is around P33 billion, effectively wiping out the

losses resulting from politically motivated discounts. The 2002 net loss of around P33 billion is also offset and Napocor may register a net income next year, especially when the ERC finally decides to approve the full amount of P1.87 that has been petitioned.

In the meantime, President Macapagal-Arroyo can say that consumers continue to benefit from the discount mandated by EPIRA and from the reduced PPA ordered by her, when the truth is that Napocor is actually picking our pockets to recover the discounts it has given out. Ms Arroyo and Napocor win, the consumers lose.

—RAMON RAMIREZ,
convensor, Agham/Power,
132-B Matablak St.,
Teachers Village, Quezon City

Not during Secretary De Jesus' time

I AM constrained to write in connection with a series of items published in the *Inquirer* regarding errors in a textbook purchased by the Department of Education for use in the public schools.

Those who discover grammatical mistakes, factual errors or questionable inferences in textbooks perform a civic duty in calling the attention of the authorities responsible for their use in schools; they deserve to be commended. I have no interest, therefore, in probing the motivations of Antonio Calipjo Go for spending time and money to expose errors of fact or judgment in textbooks.

In fairness, however, Go should also acknowledge his own errors.

On an earlier occasion, he had criticized the DepEd for errors in a textbook he claimed were used in public schools. We informed him that the DepEd had neither purchased nor prescribed this book, which was in use in private schools. As far as I know, Go has never corrected a mistake he had committed in public.

In a paid advertisement (PD), 9/20/04, he detailed the many flaws in a book being used in public schools. If the book in question does have these mistakes, Go was correct in calling for an investigation of the process that led to their introduction, as well as for remedial and, possibly, punitive action.

Where Go is again wrong is in suggesting in his paid ad that this book is among those recently purchased and currently being distributed by the DepEd. I am somewhat disappointed that the *Inquirer* staff neglected to check this point. The book "Asya. Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" was evaluated, bought and circulated during the term of an earlier administration.

I wish Go had embarked earlier on his mission to correct the content of public school textbooks. We would have been happy to support this mission.

—EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS,
former secretary,
Department of Education

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the *Inquirer*, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Vogue and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The *Inquirer* will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The Magdalo apology

I DON'T believe the mutineers would have made a public apology without first securing an agreement with the President. It's only a matter of time before they will be pardoned. *Moro-moro na naman*.—Vicente Nuñez, Union City, CA, via e-mail

I applaud Sen. Rodolfo Blason's stand opposing the grant of pardon to the Oakwood mutineers. Here is a former soldier who knows the meaning of integrity and loyalty.

The very same qualities that the Oakwood mutineers lack. These soldiers who swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution should be punished to the limits of the law. Make them an example so that others who are thinking of such adventurous endeavors should think twice.

President Macapagal-Arroyo should let the law take its course. Of course, if the President has already "hinted" at leniency, what else can the people administering the law do? She can't keep her word about not running for re-election—no surprise she can't even keep her word on being a firm leader. Madame President, I respect you because of your position but you erode my confidence in your method of administration.—Roberto Vicencio, 709 Coronado St., Mandaluyong City, via e-mail

My appreciation and congratulations to Ms Arroyo for continuing to act decisively on the rebellion case against the "Magdalo boys." It should not be enough to just say "I'm sorry" after what these scoundrels have done, which wrought untold havoc on the country's economy and political stability.

Further, Ms Arroyo should not be duped by these people and the likes of Gregorio Honasan. Please tell the President that all civilized and peace-loving Filipinos are behind and supporting her determined efforts to pursue the criminal case against the "Magdalo boys."—Aurelio Herradura, Luanda, Angola

I don't care what other people are saying about the Magdalo group apologizing to the President. In the first place, when this group of mutineers staged their coup, nobody supported them, not even their senior officers or colleagues (although there was quite a big number involved). But they were very "brave" in spite of the failed coup.

When they were in prison, I don't think anyone even bothered to follow up their claims until finally they decided to apologize, and yet still a lot of us criticize them.

I just hope and pray that our President will listen to their "cry for help" for the improvement of our country, for the benefits of our defenders of the nation, and all the peacekeepers.—Luz Maranag, Oxford, UK

Granting amnesty to the soldiers who participated in the Oakwood mutiny is sick. The past governments made a huge mistake when Nur Misuari and Gregorio Honasan and company were given amnesty. The argument that these soldiers should be given amnesty because no harm was done to property or life is absurd. What about the immeasurable harm done to the state as well as the national psyche? Giving them amnesty is inviting future military adventurism. The errors of the past must never be used as precedents to justify present mistakes. *Dura lex, sed lex*.—Gerónimo C. Suliguan Jr., Quezon City, via e-mail

The Oakwood mutineers' apology is very unmanly and lame.

My uncle was a soldier in the 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division assigned in Mindanao before. He used to happily pepper a lot of people with bullets and slash some people's necks during counterinsurgency sweeps. Sometimes, he would even squeeze the necks of suspected rebels or sympathizers until they died. He made a lot of enemies and many wanted to kill him.

The next thing we know, his detachment was routed. He was captured and was about to be beheaded. According to his companions who witnessed it from a distance, all he did was shrug his shoulders and smile... and off his head went, without even an ounce of struggle or word of protest. No apologies were offered by him for what he did.

That is a real soldier. It is better to die with your head held high than live with your head hanging in shame! By apologizing and bluffing (planting bombs and not detonating them), these Oakwood mutineers disgraced not only their being soldiers, but their manhood as well.—Vladimir Reyes, 2449 Floresca St., Pandacan, Manila, via e-mail

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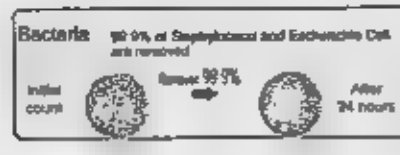
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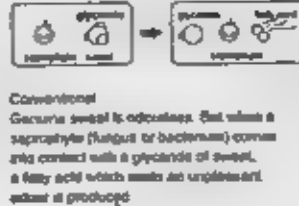
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Laguna City
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Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_lucan@inquirer.com.ph

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NPAs snatch rebel-turned-informer

DAVAO CITY—Suspected communist rebels seized a jailed comrade who was about to attend a court hearing in Nabunturan town in Compostela Valley at around 9 a.m. yesterday (Thursday).

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, military spokesperson for Southeastern Mindanao, said that Jordan Donillo alias Jovan, intelligence officer of the Front Committee 2 of the New People's Army, was

aboard a vehicle of the Bureau of Jail and Management Penology (BJMP) when armed men blocked their path along a highway in neighboring Mawab town.

Adriatico said a gunfight ensued resulting in the wounding of four BJMP personnel—two jail guards, a clerk and the driver.

He said the rebels succeeded in taking with them Donillo.

Supt. Jaime Morente, Compostela Valley police chief, said the eight other inmates aboard the BJMP vehicle remained in

their custody.

Adriatico said Donillo has become a military informer, providing vital information on the revolutionary movement.

He said he could face the rebel's court and could be executed for switching allegiance to the military.

Donillo was captured by elements of the 60th Infantry Bat-

alion sometime in May this year in the hinterlands of Mabin town, also in Compostela Valley.

Adriatico said police and military forces are now conducting pursuit operations against the suspects.

Meanwhile, captured communist rebel leader Manuel Ramos alias Commander Pepoy asked

militant groups here to stop using his sister in their efforts to discredit the military.

In his first media appearance Monday following his arrest on Sept. 16 in Panabo City, Ramos said he has had enough of Bayan Muna and other militant organizations. Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau



HIGHWAY CASUALTIES

Trees have been felled on portions of the highway in Bulacan to give way to the highway's expansion.

JOHN BENDOC/FPI PHOTO

SC strips trial courts of authority over CARP cases

BACOLOD CITY—Land reform beneficiaries scored a major victory after the Supreme Court ruled that lower courts have no jurisdiction over agrarian reform disputes and that it belongs exclusively to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The High Tribunal said that all controversies on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) fall under the jurisdiction of the DAR, even though they raise questions that are also legal or constitutional in nature.

Therefore, it said, "all doubts should be resolved in favor of the DAR since the law has granted it special and original authority to hear and adjudicate agrarian matters."

The ruling by the Supreme Court Third Division, dated Sept. 23, 2004, stemmed from a case filed by the DAR against sugar planter Roberto Cuenca and La Carlota City Regional Trial Court Judge Alfonso Combing Jr.

Cuenca filed in September 1999 a complaint at the La Carlota RTC to stop the DAR from placing his 81.6-hectare sugarcane land in Barangay Hagumit, La

Carlota City under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Combing issued a temporary restraining order and later a writ of preliminary injunction, which directed the DAR to stop implementing the CARP coverage on the Cuenca property.

The DAR questioned the RTC ruling before the CA. The CA dismissed the DA petition and upheld the RTC's issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction.

The SC, in its Sept. 23 decision, however said that having declared the RTCs to be without jurisdiction over the instant case, it follows that the RTC of La Carlota City was devoid of authority to issue the assailed writ of preliminary injunction.

The High Tribunal thus dismissed the complaint of Cuenca and voided the writ of preliminary injunction that prevented the implementation of land reform.

The order was penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, chair of the Third Division, and was concurred in by Associate Justices Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Renato Corona and Conchita Carpio Morales.

The peasant group Task Force Mapalad welcomed the High Tribunal's ruling, noting that in the last several years, especially on Negros Island, the lower courts' issuance of injunctions, status quo and restraining orders favoring petitions of land-lords have either delayed or paralyzed CARP implementation in disputed private landholdings.

TFM lawyer Rodolfo Gabasan said the SC's decision was a landmark ruling that would serve as a basis for other decisions on numerous agrarian reform cases that are currently pending in lower courts.

"This would free thousands of farmer-beneficiaries whose property rights have been blocked by former landowners using the lower courts as shield to evade CARP coverage," Gabasan said.

TFM said that in

Negros, they have documented cases similar to the SC-nullified Cuenca case. These cases involve seven haciendas with a total area of 968 hectares affecting 435 farmer-beneficiary families. Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Vizcaya execs express alarm at waste dumping in Boy Scouts campsite

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials here have expressed concern over the worsening garbage disposal problem in this capital town after reports reached them that the provincial government has been dumping its garbage at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines camping site here.

Board Member Merlie Talingdan, chair of the committee on environment, said the absence of a more permanent waste disposal facility has forced the provincial government to dump its garbage within the 117-hectare BSP jamboree site in Barangay Masoc.

Talingdan said this was caused by the closure on Sept. 1 of an area along the Magat riverbank in Barangay Vista Alegre, which used to be the dump for the town government of Bayombong for decades.

Gov. Luisa Lloren Cuarema said she has ordered the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) to immediately look into the report.

Edwin Mutug, provincial council scout executive, said garbage has been dumped at the campsite's main arena, which is one of the most frequently used areas for various scouting activities.

He said he is also worried about the residue that may be left

behind after the dumped garbage is re-collected and transferred to another site.

The town government of Bayombong and the provincial government have been using the Magat riverbank as a dumping site until it was shut down on the recommendation of the Environmental Management Bureau and the Department of Health.

Talingdan said after the closure, the Bayombong government diverted the town's garbage to an area near the municipal cemetery in Barangay Luyang.

Francisco Tolentino, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said he was not aware that the camping site was being used as a temporary dump.

"But if that (report) were true, then (the dumping) has to stop because the campsite is considered a protected area by virtue of a presidential proclamation," he said.

The completion of the proposed dump in Barangay Nalubunan in Quezon town has been delayed due to opposition from farmers and residents of nearby Barangay Pogonino in Bagabag town.

They claimed that the garbage dumped in Nalubunan would contaminate the river flow going to their village. Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Fire hits Hagonoy art center

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Writer and artist Jun Cruz Reyes caused fire officials here "incompetent" for their failure to put out the fire that gutted his art and book collections early Wednesday.

Reyes, a professor at De La Salle University, said he was suing the officials for their incompetence and arrogance.

A gas tank stored in a sari-sari store exploded at 4:30 a.m., with the flames eating up eight houses, including the ancestral house of Reyes.

For several years, Reyes' house served as the cultural center of this town.

Reyes said the houses could have been saved. Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Grains traders urge Gloria to save NFA

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—More than 500 traders here asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider the privatization of the National Food Authority (NFA) and to instead provide concrete policies to strengthen the agency.

The businessmen, composed of rice and corn millers and retailers, said the agency has performed well in helping the grains industry and local farmers.

The support came as NFA officials said the agency's losses did not go to corruption but went to their grains procurement program to stabilize rice and corn prices in the provinces.

"Our national officials were just focusing on the figures on the financial statement of our agency but these losses went to our social commitment," said Mario Gonzales, NFA manager in Nueva Vizcaya.

Losses

Gonzales issued the statement during the 32nd anniversary of the NFA here in response to a government report on the financial losses of government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs).

In a resolution addressed to Ms. Arroyo and members of Congress, the businessmen said

"the absence of the agency as guardian of the grains sector invites powerful capitalists to propagate clandestine operations in controlling prices and supply of rice and corn as well as other basic food commodities."

"The operational losses of the agency are attributable to the delivery of social services and market intervention programs, wherein direct and indirect benefits are extended to farmers and consumers through the procurement of paddy and corn," they said. Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



FLIP FLOP

Children take advantage of an open space in Lumban town in Laguna to try their acrobatic skills.

ALVIN PARRON/PHOTO

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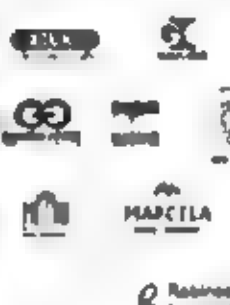
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MESSAGES



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
METRO MANILA
CITY OF QUEZON
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On behalf of the 1st District of Antipolo, I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the management and staff of CHERRY FOODARAMA SUPER-MARKET on the occasion of the grand opening of your Antipolo City Branch, on the 1st of October, 2004.

Your timely opening will indeed generate much needed employment, especially to my constituents, and your marketing of reasonably-priced commodities will provide basic necessities at affordable prices especially in these difficult economic times.

We trust that you can count on the support of the people of Antipolo, who in turn seek your constant assistance. MORE POWER TO YOU and we pray for the success of this new branch for the coming years!

Ronaldo V. Puno
Rep. RONALDO V. PUNO
Representative
1st District, Antipolo City



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF RIZAL
CITY OF ANTIPOLO
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to the men & women of CHERRY FOODARAMA INC. for the opening of their Antipolo Branch slated October 1, 2004.

We are very pleased for the trust you gave to the city, for bringing in immense job opportunity and complemented our investment portfolio. Surely, your effort will pave the way to a yet another prosperous business venture that the city aspires for.

In behalf of the Antipoleños and the City Council, our sincerest gratitude for extending your invaluable retail servicing to the Pilgrimage Capital of the Philippines-Antipolo City.

Good Bless, Good Luck & Mabuhay!

Angelito C. Gatbalayan
Hon. ANGELITO C. GATBALAYAN
City Mayor



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF RIZAL
CITY OF ANTIPOLO
OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR

Greetings!

I wish to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to the administration and staffs of Cherry Foodarama in its inauguration. As one of the best grocery stores in the country, I know that you will be noted as a part of the history of Antipolo in its 8th year as a component city and you will be an associate in serving the next generation of this community.

The establishment of your branch here in Antipolo connote another significant milestone that shows its unstoppable development. It adds more job opportunities for the Antipoleños and also the experience of enjoying community-shopping in a strategic location in this urban part of the Province of Rizal.

The city government thru the leadership of Mayor Engr. Angelito C. Gatbalayan, the City Council headed by the undersigned welcomes you to the Pilgrimage Capital of the Philippines. We wish for the success and subsistence of your commercial establishment. More Power. More shoppers!

Daniilo D. Reyre
Atty. DANILO D. REYRE
City Vice Mayor

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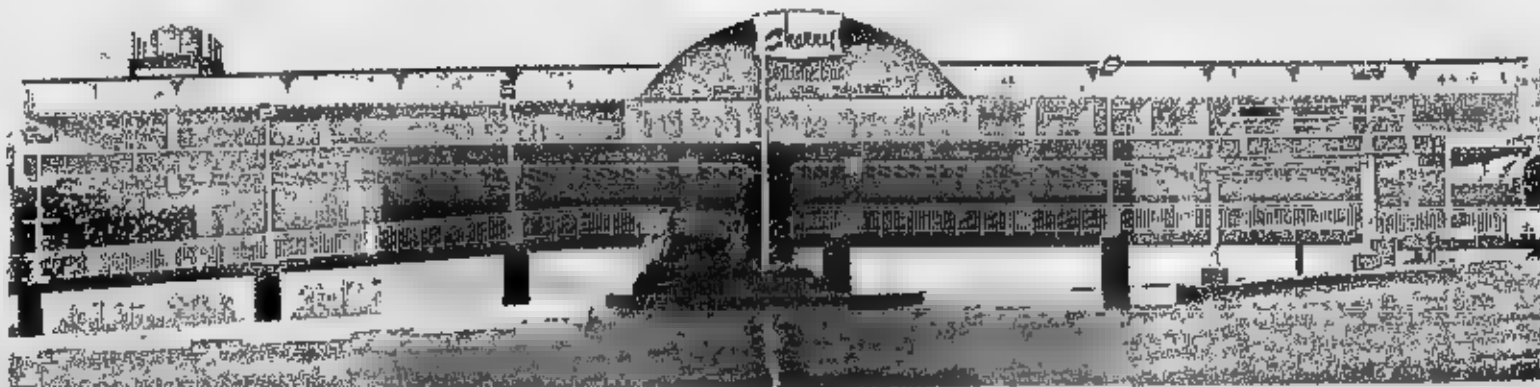
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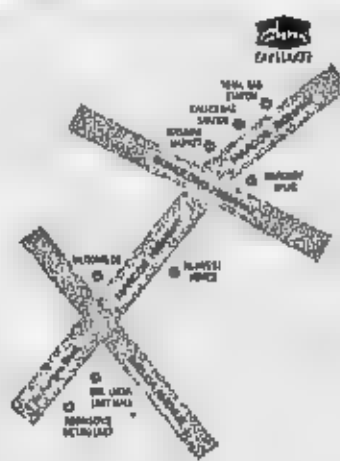
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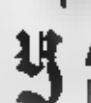
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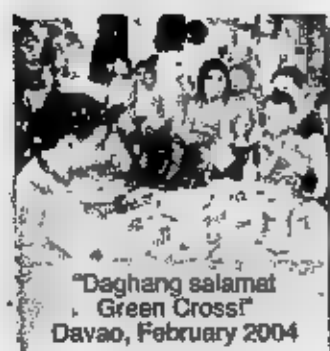
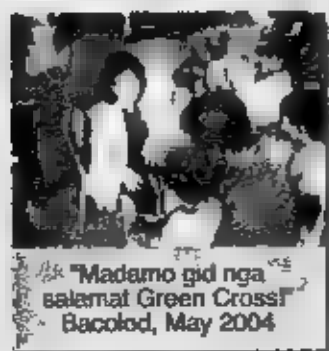
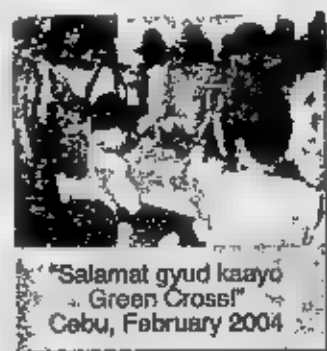
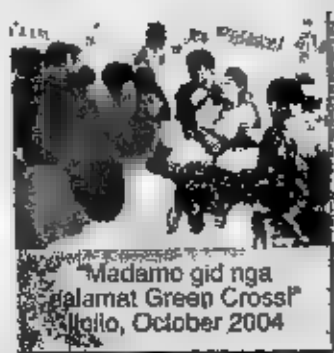
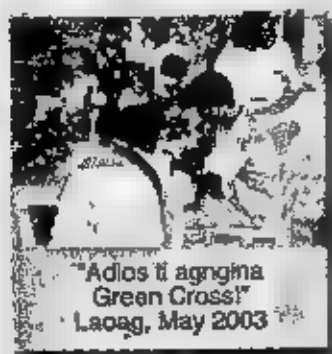
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At sa huling pagkakataon, ang pinakamalaking medical mission sa bansa, magkasabay na nagaganap ngayon sa Tacloban at Iloilo City.

Kaya para naman sa Green Cross, ang buong pusong pasasalamat mula sa lahat ng nangangailangan at patuloy na nagitiwala mula noon hanggang ngayon.



Gov't wavers on amnesty

From page A1

this and the consultations are being conducted at the highest levels of the government and all concerned sectors.

"The important thing to stress at this point is that there were no deals made and that all processes will be handled transparently and institutionally in accordance with law."

This statement was released at the Press Working Area in Malacañang. Inq7 obtained a copy from the Office of the Press Secretary's website.

Later in the morning, the first sentence simply said, "We adhere to the principle of reconciliation with justice." The second part of the sentence was crossed out with a pen, but the rest of the statement was retained.

His correction

Bunye explained the revision to reporters with a joke: "The correct statement is what you have. [There was not some statement there that was very flattering to the Malacañang Press Corps which I had to delete. Just take what you have as the official statement.]"

He did not elaborate.

"No, that was my statement and I made that correction," he said, when asked if somebody in the Palace made him change the statement.

"The idea of amnesty never came from us. What the President said was [she] accepts the apology of the officers but the cases have to be heard," he stressed.

Asked why Ermita and Cruz would be talking about the me-

chanics of amnesty if Ms Arroyo did not want it, Bunye said: "I think the question is based on the wrong premise because the President never mentioned amnesty. [She] has been consistent in her stand that the cases would have to be continued and completed."

Asked if Ms Arroyo had asked for the drafting of an amnesty proclamation for the Magdalo mutineers, he said: "No, no. The President is not talking about amnesty. We have said before, and this is borne out by the records, that the Magdalo officers never mentioned amnesty as a condition."

Asked what her position on amnesty was, Bunye replied. "The President said this was never asked for by members of the Magdalo group. [She] said she would like the case settled within the ambit of the law, and that is to terminate all proceedings or hasten, expedite all proceedings."

First things first

Bunye said Malacañang had not changed its position.

"The President wants the process to continue to its logical conclusion, meaning we'll have to finish, we'll have to hear the cases against the Magdalo officers," he said, adding.

"We've been consistent. We're saying that the proceedings would have to be continued, would have to be terminated before we can talk about amnesty. Let's finish the proceedings first. First things first."

Bunye would not confirm reports that some military officials had warned Ms Arroyo against

Amnesty also eyed for NPA, Moro rebels

THE GOVERNMENT is also studying the possibility of granting amnesty to members of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the communist New People's Army and other armed groups, according to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

Cruz told reporters Wednesday night at the Manila Polo Club in Makati that the issue was one of the points to be discussed at the meeting called yesterday in Malacañang by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Cruz said the National Amnesty Commission had been proposing for the past

three years an amnesty program for MILF and NPA members. "We in the security group in the Cabinet will study it for submission to Congress," he said.

Peace talks between the government and the MILF have yet to be scheduled by the Malaysian government, which is serving as a third party in the talks.

The government is also due to resume peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines. Alcide Papa

granting amnesty to the mutineers because it would cause demoralization in the military.

"I'm making a factual report of what happened," he said. "We do not want to answer any speculations at this time."

For his part, Cruz reiterated that he had ordered the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces to speed up the court-martial proceedings.

"This is part of step one, which to me means speeding up the court-martial for the enlisted personnel so that depending on the evidence on [their] participation and the rules, leniency can be given and they can be reinstated

subject to whatever sanctions. That is what we have to talk about first," Cruz said in Filipino.

He added "Regarding amnesty, that is a long process. Our plan is to do it step by step. We can't get to the end of the process just like that."

Civilian supremacy

Ruel Pulido, a lawyer for the Magdalo soldiers, told the legislature that the possibility of amnesty was "a welcome development even if my clients never asked for any precondition for the apology they made."

But he said the Supreme Court must "first resolve and clarify the

issue of civilian supremacy over the military," specifically "whether it is legal to institute military charges against soldiers who have been charged in civil courts."

"Our stand is that it is illegal," he said in a phone interview.

According to Pulido, Republic Act No. 7055, which affirms civilian supremacy over the military, makes clear that soldiers facing criminal charges should no longer be prosecuted by the general court-martial.

"If the military says that in the interest of military discipline, the soldiers should face court-martial, we say the law must be followed. It is in the interest of the Republic that it uphold the law," Pulido said.

As many as 316 soldiers are in various detention centers for their alleged participation in the mutiny of July 2003.

Eight of the key leaders of the Magdalo group are being held at the Intelligence Service of the AFP compound in Camp Aguinaldo; 55 officers and 68 enlisted personnel, at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio; 25 officers and 148 enlisted personnel, at the Marines headquarters also in Fort Bonifacio; and 12 officers, at the Air Force headquarters in Villamor Air Base.

Taking the pulse

Defense and military officials told the Senate committee on national defense that they were studying the possibility of amnesty.

But Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina said that from initial consultations made by Cruz, "many believe that the justice system should be allowed to take its course."

"In the first place, there is no debate on the fact that when we talk of amnesty or pardon or the like, you have got to go through a process first," Carolina told the committee chaired by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Carolina said Cruz asked the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) "to get the pulse" on the issue after Sen. Alfredo Lim met with defense officials to inform them that he was crafting a bill on amnesty.

'They should be tried'

Agfo chair Jose Bello, a retired general, told the committee that the group consulted "legal minds" and even the Judge Advocate General's Office, the legal adviser of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya.

"By and large, it would have to follow, according to the presentation of the Jago, the line of thinking of the Supreme Court and the Relicario commission," Bello said.

Asked later by reporters to elaborate, Bello said the recommendation was that the mutineers "should be tried."

Biazon told reporters that the military justice system "should take precedence in the judicial resolution" of the soldiers' cases.

"We cannot weaken the Articles of War, which is a distinct set of laws ensuring the preservation of discipline, moral standards and justice within the AFP," he said.

Thus, he said, if amnesty would be granted, it should be on the coup d'état charges filed against the soldiers in the civilian court. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

GMA: Keep the faith, ignore doomsayers

From page A1

get over the hump and move forward," the President said.

As long as the government fixed its fiscal woes, economic growth prospects this year remained on track despite rising oil prices and a volatile peso, Ms Arroyo said.

"The passing headlines may dampen the spirit but this should not deter us from the prize we all seek—a strong, vibrant and enterprising economy even amidst these critical moments in our nation and elsewhere," she said in Toledo City during rites marking the electrification of 1,000 barangays all over the country.

But even if the government plugged all tax leaks and posted a 100-percent tax collection efficiency, its revenues would still not be enough to solve its debt problem because of the flaws in the country's tax system, according to Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

In a forum on the fiscal crisis at the University of Santo Tomas, Salceda, a member of the administration's Economic Managers Group, blamed the country's very small tax base for the government's inability to firmly address the fiscal problem.

"The Philippines has the most comprehensive tax exemption in Asia. We have exempted almost everything from taxes—jewelry, books, schools, cooperatives, agriculture," Salceda said at the forum sponsored by the Philippine Economic Society.

He said the country's meager tax base was the reason tax collection had not been improving commensurate with economic growth.

Citing data from the National Tax Research Center, Salceda said the government would only collect P127 billion in additional revenue if it were able to plug all tax leakages and if all taxpayers honestly paid their taxes.

Appeal

The amount, he said, was not enough to address the government's serious fiscal problem, characterized by a gaping budget deficit and ballooning debt.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo was prompted to make an appeal to the public because "there were a lot of forecasts being made by doomsayers and she was concerned that they could affect the public's confidence."

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the Philippines to be the laggard among the major economies in Southeast Asia with its gross domestic product (GDP) slowing down to 4.2 percent next year.

Hong Kong and Shanghai

Business group gives gov't 'passing rate' of 6

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) gave the government a "passing rate" of 6, on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the best possible rate.

The PCCI rated the government using the scorecard system and performance-based approach it introduced during the 29th Philippine Business Conference last year.

PCCI vice president Raul Hernandez said in a statement the group was content with some of the national policies that the government was implementing.

But Hernandez said PCCI members were still expecting to see more laws translated into action for the benefit of the public.

"While government agencies express acceptance of ideas and concepts (provided in our laws), we have yet to see improvement in the speed of implementation and achievement of results," he said.

Hernandez said the PCCI would present to President Macapagal-Arroyo a resolution which lays out a roadmap of specific milestones that would be applied to the administration's 10-point agenda for the next six years.

In particular, he said, the PCCI was lobbying for more government attention to overseas Filipino workers who, according to him, should be referred to as knowledge workers.

He said the group was working on advocacy programs aimed at turning workers returning from abroad into businesspersons.

"They should invest their savings from foreign employment in business so they could grow and help the economy," he said.

The PCCI is hosting the 30th Philippine Business Conference on Oct. 5-7 at the Manila Hotel with former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as keynote speaker.

The conference will chart a business roadmap that focuses on human development, economic performance, government and business efficiencies and infrastructure development.

It would also touch on major economic concerns such as the fiscal problem, governance, poverty, education and peace and order. *Normel W. Domingo*

limit the budget deficit this year to P197.8 billion, or 4.2 percent of GDP, but the deficit already stood at P111.1 billion in the first eight months due to weak revenues.

Emilio Antonio, dean of the University of Asia and the Pacific's School of Economics, said the country continued to do well despite the government's financial difficulties because the state sector accounted for no more than 16 percent of the economy.

Antonio said the public sector deficit had been offset by rising private sector surpluses, ironically due to inefficient tax collection, which has declined to about 12 percent of GDP from a historic high of about 17 percent in 1997.

Thus, dollars are not in short supply, movements in the peso-dollar exchange rate have been benign, inflation remains at single-digits and driven mainly by higher oil prices, and interest rates have stayed moderate.

Nevertheless, "if we don't take care—if we don't solve the crisis in the government today, then sooner or later the private sector will also be contaminated," he said.

Antonio said Ms Arroyo had at

most "two years" to reverse the

Tax exempt

Of the over P5 trillion in gross national product, only P1.7 trillion is the taxable amount because sectors that contribute most to the country's economic growth are exempt from taxes, according to Salceda.

The electronics sector, for instance, accounts for about 70 percent of the country's exports and is exempt from taxes. Agriculture, which composes a third of the economy, together with other smaller sectors, is also tax-exempt.

This is the reason the country should overhaul its tax system to expand its taxpayer base, according to Salceda.

He said the administration's proposed revenue-enhancement measures would help address the flaws in the tax system.

He said, however, that among the government's eight proposed measures, only a few were expected to be passed by Congress.

The ones that have not gotten significant opposition from Congress are the increase in petroleum taxes and the indexation of the excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol to inflation.

Investor confidence

Despite the projected economic slowdown, Ms Arroyo said investors' confidence in the country remained high.

She cited the \$400-million investment of Mirant Global Philippines Corp. for the expansion of its power plants in Toledo and Quezon. The expansion is aimed at preventing a power shortage in Luzon and the Visayas.

"I would like to consider this huge investment, yet another investment among the many we are announcing, as a sign of confidence of the world in our economy," the President said.

The expansion plans will involve an additional 350 megawatts (MW) in Pagbilao, Quezon, and 100 MW in Toledo at a cost of \$300 million and \$100 million, respectively.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez said the expansion in Pagbilao would be the first major power project to be implemented in Luzon in five years.

Mirant Global is a joint venture of Mirant Philippines and Global Business Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of Metrobank Group.

Mirant Philippines, a subsidiary of the US-based Mirant Corp., is the largest private power producer in the country, operating more than 2,500 MW of generating capacity. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and AFP



STOLEN shot of a barefoot army of a Northern Luzon big shot taken under a bridge at an undisclosed place in Abra. (FOR NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU)

Aglipay sacks 61 Abra cops serving as pols' bodyguards

From page A1

the Philippine National Police, yesterday announced the relief of the officers from their assignments in the towns of Lagayan, La Paz, Dolores and San Juan.

They were sent for a two-week retraining under the PNP's elite Special Action Force.

The rest of the police force in the 23 other Abra towns will also be relieved and retrained in batches, Aglipay told reporters in Camp Crame.

After the retraining, the policemen will be assigned to the PNP Regional Mobile Group of the Cordillera Administrative Region headed by Chief Supt. Rowland Abano.

"They should take advantage of the presence of the SAF personnel in Abra," Agapay said in a press conference, referring to the deployment of 95 members of the elite force to put order in the province, a known haven of partisan armed groups which had been the subject of a three-part Inquirer special report last month.

Private armies

Aglipay said the police officers often failed to go through the PNP's training program owing to Abra's "distance" from the metropolis.

During a visit to the province last Friday, the PNP chief ordered the recall of all policemen assigned as security personnel to politicians. These officers had ostensibly gotten so close to their subjects that they had failed to enforce the law against private armies.

Aglipay has barred all Abra residents, including politicians, from carrying firearms outside their homes.

He gave all politicians in the province until Friday next week to surrender their unlicensed firearms. If they failed to do so,

he said he would secure warrants from courts in Metro Manila for exorable police to search their houses and offices.

Gov gives up unlicensed guns

Abra Gov. Vicente Valera led the way, surrendering what he said were the "only" six unlicensed firearms in his possession. The firearms included a Patriot and an M-16 rifle, a baby Armalite, and handguns.

Valera claimed he was "forced" to secure the high-powered firearms and seek protection from four local policemen after receiving threats during the May 10 elections.

"We couldn't believe that we who were in position were the ones terrorized by our opponents," he said.

Asked if he was maintaining a private army, Valera said no. He said only the four policemen had formed part of his security staff, adding he had already allowed them to return to their regular duties.

Aglipay commended Valera's effort, but the PNP chief was still not satisfied.

"I gave Abra politicians two weeks to surrender their firearms without questions asked," he said. "All parties should follow the initiative of the governor."

Peaceful

Since Aglipay cracked down on private armies in Abra, Valera said the province had been generally peaceful.

"Now people are not afraid to walk around in the evening," he said. "There's a basketball tournament in the plaza (in Bangwed, the capital town) and many people are watching."

The PNP campaign has so far resulted in the arrest of seven people for illegal possession of firearms and the seizure of a grenade launcher, four .45-cal. pistols, a 9-mm pistol and a Kennedy jeep.

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10 key WPD posts get new directors

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO MAJOR divisions and eight stations of the Western Police District will get new chiefs today.

The WPD's traffic bureau will be headed by Supt. Cesar Javier, and the anti-illegal drugs division by Supt. Rodolfo Ilorca.

Supt. Frumenio Villareal is the new chief of Station 1 (Balut, Tondo).

Station 2 (Mortones, Tondo) will now be headed by Supt. George Gaddi.

Supt. Roberto Dela Rosa is the new Station 6 commander (Sta. Ana).

Station 7 (Abad Santos, Tondo) will now be under the com-

mand of Supt. Florencio Ortilla.

Station 8 (Sta. Mesa) is now headed by Supt. Manolo Martinez.

Former WPD antidrug chief Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo is the new Station 9 (Malate) commander, while Supt. Danilo Estapan is the new Station 10 (Pandacan) commander.

The new Station 11 (Binondo) commander is Supt. Hospicio Guevarra, who used to be the chief of staff at the WPD.

The reshuffle is the result of the review of the officials' performance that WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong and deputy for administration Lt. Supt. Juanito de Guzman conducted earlier.

Taxi fare goes up Oct. 16

By Clarissa S. Batino

STARTING Oct. 16, commuters riding a cab will have to pay P30 for the flag down covering the first 500 meters, plus P2.50 for every 300 succeeding meters.

Aside from the P5-increase in the flag down and the 50-centavo hike for every 300 meters, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) also approved the request of taxi operators for an additional P2.50 on the meter fare for every two minutes of waiting while stopped.

The good news for passengers is that they need not pay for their ride if they see a tampered meter.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said that once taxi meters are calibrated, tested and sealed, the meters should not be tampered with. The taxi unit must display a sticker saying that passengers should not pay if the meter's seal is broken or missing.

Sealed like Meralco

"We would be using a seal similar to how Meralco seals its meter. It would be noticeable to the passenger if the seal is broken. And so, the commuter need not pay for the ride because the taxi committed a violation," said Bautista.

To ensure the safety of the passengers, the LTFRB is also requiring the taxis to remove power locks and tints. A coin box for loose change must also be in a visible location.

Starting January 2005, cabs must issue receipts. Bautista said this would allow the government to collect about P2.2 billion in additional taxes yearly.

But taxi operators were not happy with the LTFRB fare hike order.

Leonora Naval, president of the Association of Taxi Operators in Metro Manila said the fare hike came with too many stringent provisions that would just aggravate the plight of taxi drivers and operators.



OUTDOOR COOKING

The seasonal rains fail to dampen the will of this couple, who cook their lunch under a big umbrella in Manila.

Antipolo has new public cemetery

By Lulge A. del Puerto

HERE is something for the dead that will surely be welcomed by the living.

Antipolo is developing a new public cemetery in Barangay San Jose to take the place of the one it closed a week ago, said Mayor Angelo Gatabayan.

The mayor said development of the new cemetery would cost the city P2 million. Initially, 100 apartment-type niches will be built in the 1.8-hectare lot.

He said they hope to open the new cemetery by November.

"We are speeding up its development," Gatabayan said over the phone.

The city closed the public cemetery in Barangay San Jose because it could no longer accommodate new bodies in the 2,000-sq.m. facility.

Recently, the city received reports that some niches were being pried open and emptied of interred remains to accommodate new ones.

Remains are usually uncereimoniously dumped in surrounding areas.

Gatabayan said such a practice could lead to an outbreak of diseases.

"When the relatives visit their dead, they find out that someone else has been buried where their kin is supposed to be," Gatabayan said.

At the very least, this situation is sure to raise the blood pressure of visiting relatives come November, when Filipinos celebrate All Souls Day and All Saints Day.

"I already fired the grave digger. He claims that he does not know these cases. That's impossible," the mayor said.

Acquittal for actor

THE COURT of Appeals has acquitted Rommel Padilla on charges of carrying an unlicensed pistol in Pasig City in October 1996, setting aside the actor's conviction by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court because of conflicting evidence and testimony submitted by police. It also acquitted Frederick M. Luna, who was charged with illegal possession of firearms and marijuana. The court said the marijuana had been planted. Padilla was imprisoned for a year after his bail was cancelled when he failed to attend the promulgation of a ruling made by Pasig Judge Esperanza Victorino. **Philip C. Tabora**

GK marks 1st year

GAWAD Kalinga (GK), a community development foundation aimed at

providing shelter for the poor, marks its first anniversary today at The Fort. Billed as "Bawat Pilipino Bayani," the GK Expo showcases a theme park, workshops and a concert on Saturday. "Every Filipino deserves a home where he can live and receive visitors with dignity," said Tony Meloto, founder and executive director of Gawad Kalinga. A grand reception for the heroes and partners of Gawad Kalinga to be led by President Macapagal-Arroyo will cap the affair.

Centennial book

AS PART of the centennial celebrations of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, a book on the 100-year-old institution authored by multi-awarded writer Prof. Ave Perez Jacob will be launched today at the PUP campus in Sta. Mesa,

Manila. The book depicts the rise of the PUP from its humble beginnings as a trade and business school to the formidable institution it is today. It also salutes contributions to nation-building efforts by its administrators, especially PUP President Emeritus Dr. Nemesio Prudente, its faculty graduates and students.

Assumption exhibit

ASSUMPTION College's third year Media Production students will launch an exhibit of photographs at the College Student Lounge at 9 a.m. today. The exhibit was put up in cooperation with Globalines Joylibee. Happy Feet and Trek Sport. An evening mini concert featuring top bands in the metro will conclude the affair. Special guests at the launch are Sen. Richard Gordon and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

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switch to new appliances whether it be a 21" TV or a new DVD player. "Knowing that our consumers have varied needs, we'd like to satisfy all these by giving them several reasonable offers on top of the usual reasons why they should shop at

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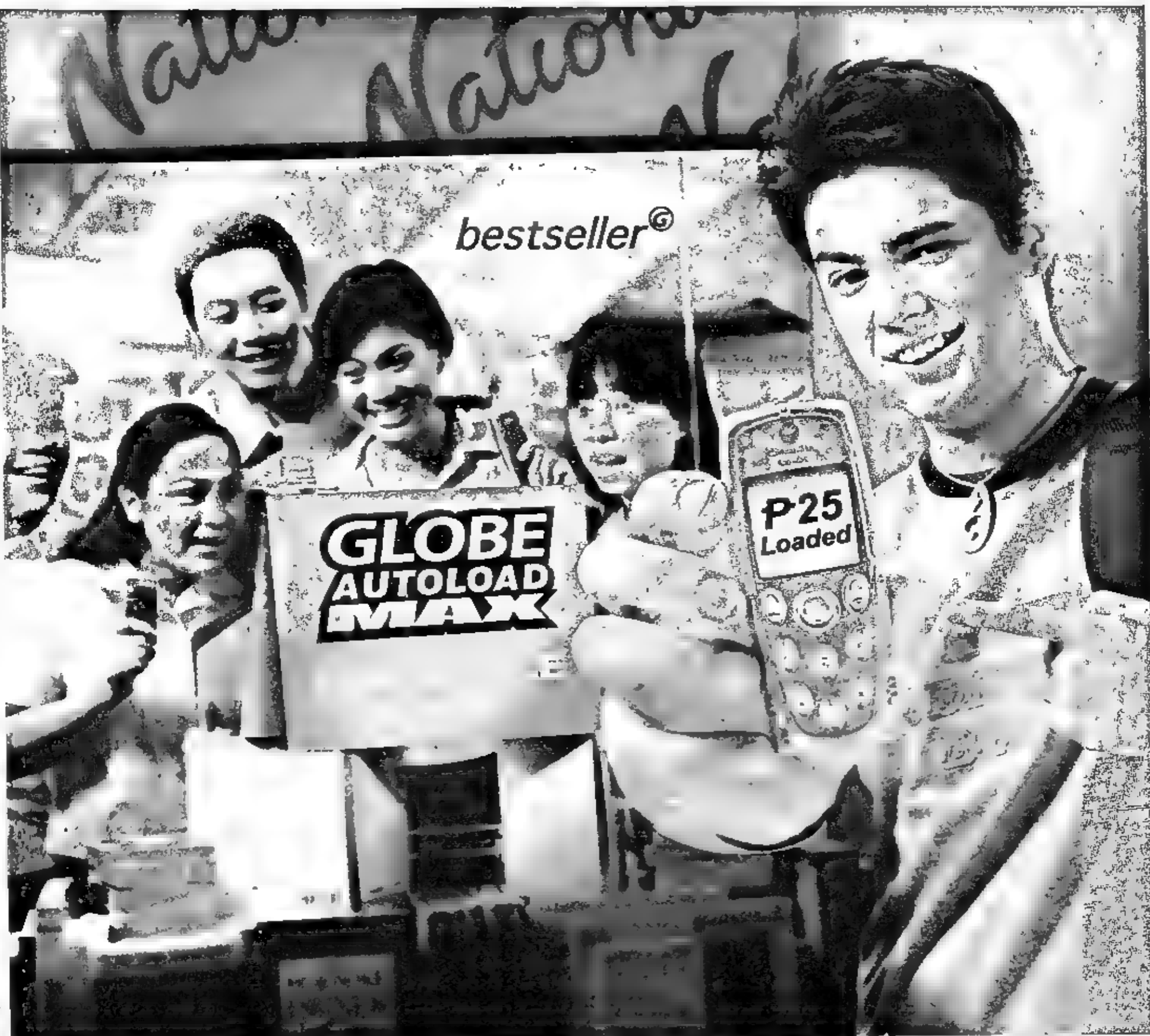
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MVP and champ for La Salle



HE snared the crucial rebound. He drained the insurance freethrows.

In his trademark fashion, he scraped, clawed and, in one play early in the game, chased a loose ball and leapt onto the front row of ringside.

If there was anyone who doubted that the championship meant more to him than the Most Valuable Player trophy that agonizingly slipped his fingers for the second straight year, it was someone who didn't see Mark Cardona hop around the Araneta Coliseum in the final seconds of yesterday's UAAP varsity basketball championship match with a big smile on his face.

Or it was somebody who didn't know exactly how Cardona felt the night before.

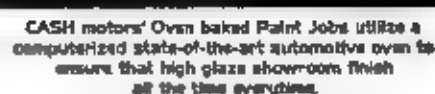
"I was so excited, I couldn't sleep," he said.

CARTON/AM

THE EMOTION aroused by La Salle's hard-earned championship is too much to bear for (from left) Mac Cardona, coach Franz Pumaren and Joseph Cuaia after the final buzzer sounded. PHOTOS BY ERNE L. SAMPANICO

PHOTOS BY ERNE L. SAMMONS

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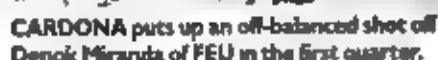
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BERNARD Lizon pulls off the first breakthrough for the RP-Pagcor Casino Filipino Trade Team in the Dji Sam Soe Tour of Indonesia cycling tour **Tuesday** by ruling the downhill third lap to **Purwokerto**.

A 2004 Tour Filipinas veteran, Luzon peeled off from the main pack along with Dutchman Edmund Hollands and Hong Kong's Wong Ngai-chung with 30 km to go before outlasting his two foreign rivals. He crossed the finish line in the small town in Central Java all by himself.

He covered the 147.7-km stage in three hours, 30 minutes and 54 seconds—the first

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Cardona: MVP and champ

From page A23

"The championship is more important because more people are happy, there's our school and the fans. It doesn't matter now that I did not get the MVP. This is sweeter by far," added Cardona, who was beaten by Far Eastern Tamaraws' Arwind Santos for the season's top individual award.

The two crossed paths briefly one last time in the stretch after a couple of plays that saw J-Vee Casio turn into a hero and Dennis Miranda seal his team's doom.

In that fleeting moment, Cardona got his vindication.

Santos had a clear shot at putting back in a Miranda shot that inexplicably rolled out of the basket. But Cardona, battling Santos for possession, grabbed the crucial board and got fouled in the process. He later sank the two freethrows that sealed the 68-65 victory that brought the UAAP



MERENCIANA Arayl of Adamson and Carolyn Tanchi of Ateneo jockey for the rebound during the first game of their best-of-three series for the UAAP women's basketball title. Ateneo prevailed, 67-64.

championship back to Taft Avenue.

The win was payback time for Cardona in more ways than one. Aside from picking up the trophy that was far bigger than the one he failed to grab, the 6-foot-1 swingman also made good on a vow to repay La Salle for holding the door open and allowing him a second chance at basketball.

"When I got back here in the Philippines, no one knew me," said the former Carson High in California standout. "I just walked in at La Salle and tried out. It was La Salle that gave me the chance and I dedicate this championship to the school."

Cardona did bring home an individual award of his own. After averaging 16.7 points in the three-game series, he was voted the Most Valuable Player of the finals.

But for coach Franz Pumaren, Cardona was more than that.

"I've always been confident with Mac. He's the real MVP in my heart," said Pumaren after the tensely fought match.

That part, people will always debate on. But one thing is sure. MVP or no MVP, Cardona will spend the next year carrying an even more flattering label. Champion.

Luzon scores breakthrough . . . From page A23

lap win by a Filipino rider in a major international cycling competition.

Luzon was nearly three minutes ahead of the Taiwan-based Giant Asia Racing (3:33.2) and Wong (3:33.2), who finished

second and third, respectively.

Also figuring prominently was teammate Lloyd Reynante, who placed third in Tuesday's second stage and finished second in the sprint section of the race behind Indonesian national rider Pen-

nanto and ahead of Saneoko Reno Yudo of the local Kencana Bike Team.

The RP-Pagor riders wound up second overall in the lap, logging 10:49.38 behind team winner Indonesia (10:40.59). Hong Kong was third.

ALL-STAR WEEKEND Best of NBC show wares in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Young Turks and veteran stars of the North and South selections display their wares today at the start of the NBC (National Basketball Conference) All-Star Weekend at the University of Baguio Gym here.

The event kicks off with a coaching clinic at 9 a.m., with former PBA mentor Arlene Rodriguez and ex-PBA chief of referees Ernie de Leon.

Other events include the slam dunk contest, the two-ball challenge, the skills competition and the long-distance shoot-out.

Pais will also have the chance to mingle and play with their favorite players starting at 3 p.m. In the festivities sponsored by Concorde Hotel, Gerry's Grill, Chi's Fastfood, Tokyo Tokyo, Four Bar, Gatorade, Bee-hive Bar, Angle's Bar and Feilers Bar.

Also slated is a skills competition among players from local commercial and school teams as well as members of the All-Stars.

The 2-Ball Challenge will feature Baguio Cardinal's Joseph Roque and Jessie James Collado, Cardinal Jun Balares and Forward Tagug's Jim-boy Robillos, Cardinal Efron Valdes and Tagug's

**TODAY'S SCHEDULE
(UB Gym)**
9 a.m.—Coaching clinic
3 p.m.—Fans day
6 p.m.—Skills competition

Stars' Jayson Alfeche.

Vying in the long-distance shoot-out are Melvin Fontanilla and Edbert Ton (Baguio), Sonny Manucat and Dennis Rodriguez (Batangas), Julius Navales (Cdo), Carlos Sayon Jr. (Iloilo), Egay Echavez (Ozamiz), Gumatay and Lanete.

In the Speed Challenge, the participants are Lanete, Navales, Balares, Echavez and Rodriguez. Tribu Sugbu's Ruben de la Rosa, a former PBA, and MBA slam dunk champion, is expected to rule the contest of rim-rattlers. He will be challenged by Harold Sta. Cruz and Rodell Mallari (Batangas), Ardy Larong and Collado.

The finals of the long-distance shoot-out and slam dunk will be held tomorrow during the All-Star game pitting the North and the South selections. A basketball clinic for 7- to 16-year-olds is also set at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Cebu, Ilocos cagers prevail

GAME WEDNESDAY
(Quizon Convention Center)
6 p.m.—Quezon vs Harbour Centre-Pampanga

CEBU CITY—James Laygo waxed hot in the second half to power M. Lhuillier-Cebu City past Harbour Centre-Pampanga, 96-83, Wednesday night as the Jewelers kept top spot in the United Regional Basketball League at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

Laygo scored seven straight points to ignite a 16-0 blitz with help from Bong Marata and Woodrow Enriquez, towing the Jewelers to a 64-53 lead en route to their third straight win in as many outings.

Pampanga dropped to 1-1 in the league being backed by adidas and Lactovital.

The Jewelers got a scare in the first four minutes of the final period as Rey Mendoza, VJ Santos and Alex Bognot mastered an 11-3 blitz that put Harbour Centre on top, 78-77, at the 5:56 mark.

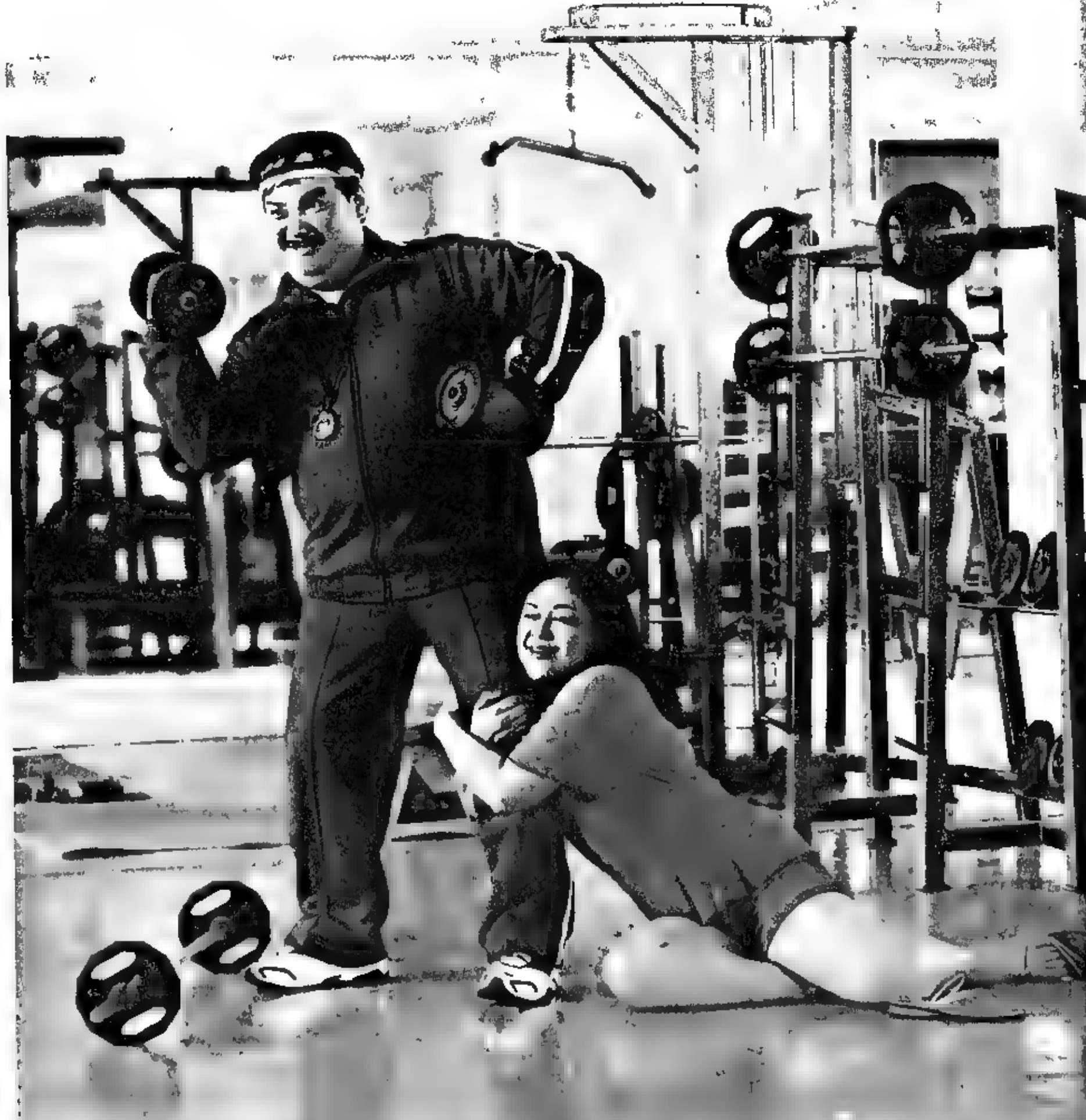
The Jewelers, however, tightened their defenses and denied the visitors a field goal the rest of the way.

Over at the Don Celestino Martinez Coliseum in Iloilo, the Ilocos Sur Snipers rebounded from their first game loss by downing the Lactovital-Cebu Province Probiotics, 89-79.

Big men Ryan Bernardo and Jerome Barbosa put the Snipers on top after 10 minutes, 25-20, and the Probiotics slumped to their second straight setback in three games.

PBL draft postponed

COMMISSIONER Chino Trinidad yesterday reset the Rookie Draft for the 2004 PBL Open Championship to Tuesday to allow teams more time to study the list of available players in both the regular and dispersal draft pools. The regular and dispersal draft was supposed to be held today.



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Torres stuns Kazakh for Busan gold

LONG jumper Marlissa Torres, almost forgotten after her dismal showing in the 2003 SEA Games debut in Vietnam, sparked with a gold medal win in the recent Busan International Athletics meet at the Busan Stadium in South Korea.

Torres, a former Asian championships bronze medalist with a personal best of 6.40 meters, upset the highly touted former Asian Athletics Association winner Yelena Kochshyeva of Kazakhstan with a 6.39 leap, as against the latter's 6.30. Athens Olympian and SEA Games titleholder Lerma Bulautan-Gabito settled for third (6.21).

"Maganda ang kundisyon ko pero maakas ang hangin (I was in good condition but it was windy)," said the Dumaguete-born Torres.

Patafa president Go Jeng Kok attributed Torres' victory to hard work.

"Everyday we see Marlis (Torres' nickname) religiously working out at the track. I'm very happy. She has the talent and I know one day she will perform this way," Go said.

Patafa sent only three athletes to the Busan event, with long-distance ace Eduardo Buenavista finishing third behind Kenya's Richard Mateelong and Japan's Yasumori Murakami in the 5,000m.

Athletics secretary general Ben Silva-Netto said Buenavista led the race in the first five laps before Mateelong took command for good.



COOL CHAMP

TOP female junior triathlete Mimi Lucas (above) cool off from the heat with a refreshing shower after ruling—along with national duathlon champion Ryan Mendoza—the recent Hundred Islands Open in Alaminos, Pangasinan. The event, organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) and backed by the Department of Tourism and the Alaminos city government, was held to highlight the celebration of the National Tourism Week.

ENERVON NETFEST

RP pair gains final

SECOND seed Nico Riego De Dios and Ralph Kevin Barte of the Philippines downed Koreans Cho Soong Jae and Seo Hsieh Yiu, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to reach the boys' doubles semifinals in the 2004 Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Riego De Dios and Barte, both semifinalists in singles' play, forged a duel with the tandem of Japan's Toshiya Suzuki and Taiwan's Ma Kai-chieh, who scored a 7-6, 6-4 victory over the Taiwanese pair of Chuang Chen-yuan and Peng Hsieh-yin.

Top seeds Martin Sayer and Lai Xiao-peng of Hong Kong survived Koreans Mun Ju Hae and Hong Hwi Jin, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, to advance against the Taiwanese pair of Chang Chuen Tung-hung and Lee Chung-yu.

In girls' doubles, top seeds Anna Vanessa Peter of Germany and Venice Chan of Hong Kong outclassed Kang Wei-fang and Teng Yi-yang of Hong Kong, 6-1, 6-0, to advance to the quarterfinals against Taiwan's Lai Wen-tzu and Tsai Yu-chen.

Second seeds Chin Seul Ki and Jeong Yoon

Young of Korea downed Wang Wen-lin and Ta Chin-chin of Taiwan, 6-2, 6-2, to advance against Melissa Tsan and Michelle Liew of Malaysia.

Lin Jing-chi and Wang Chieh-ju of Taiwan defeated Nguyen Thuy Dung of Vietnam and Lucy Dougherty of Australia, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3. Hsu Tzu-chen and Yang Su-han of Taiwan beat Han A-Reum and Kang Yoo Jin of Korea, 7-5, 6-2. Local Nikki Manalo and Malaysian Vythiantha Chellappiya won over Kim So Yeon and Kim Ju Eun of Korea, 6-3, 6-3, while Ayu-mi Okuma and Natsumi Yokota of Japan defeated locals Noelle Conchita Zoleta and Ivy Kristel de Castro, 6-1, 6-2.

Ax falls on Peñalosa fight matchmaker

By Sahen L. Lagumbay

THE GAMES and Amusements Board yesterday suspended for six months international matchmaker Ajoe Jaro and banned Thai boxer Samingkao Chutpol from fighting in the country for two years for their principal roles in the sham of a fight that marked the comeback of former World Boxing Council super flyweight king Gerry Peñalosa, recently.

Concepcion Pitogo, the officially registered matchmaker of the event, also received a six-month suspension "for allowing her license as matchmaker to be used by Jaro."

The event, held last Sept. 19 in Mandau

City, saw Peñalosa winning by a second-round technical knockout over Chutpol.

The bout drew flak from spectators after the Thai, who was knocked down twice by Peñalosa in the second round, feigned being knocked down for the third time—even without actually getting hit—just as Peñalosa was charging in to finish him off.

Jaro admitted to the GAB in an investigation last Sept. 24 that he was the matchmaker of the Peñalosa-Chutpol match. The GAB decision was penned by Commissioners Emmanuel Palabrica and Angel Bautista.

Promoter Josephine Ouano got only a reprimand.

adidas KOTR race draws tough cast

OLYMPIC marathoner Eduardo Buenavista and two-time Milo marathon champion Allan Ballester are expected to dispute the 8th adidas King of the Road title this Sunday morning at the adidas Sports Kamp in Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Also joining the fray is Crisanto Canillo, last year's Milo Marathon champion who is also rated highly in the annual 10-km race.

The women's race is expected to be just as exciting with defending champion Liza Yambao returning to face the challenge from Mercedes Manipol and Belinda Manahan.

All told, more than 2,000 runners are expected to run in the event also presented by Globe Gextent with McDonald's, Snickers chocolate bar, and supported by adidas watches, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas fragrance, Paintball Empire and Milo.

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Hooray for Gonzalez

THE MEMORANDUM by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Wednesday directing Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras to investigate the alleged presence of fake Pil-Ams playing in the PBA read, in part: "You are hereby directed to pursue, on the premise that we find that the mentioned PBA players are indeed 'bogus' Filipino Americans, and include in your investigation any official of the PBA or officials, owners, managers of the teams where these players play."

If you read the memo in-between the lines, you will readily see that PBA official/s, team owners and team managers will only be investigated by Paras if there's a "premise that...the mentioned PBA players are indeed 'bogus' Filipino Americans."

Thus, by simple logic, the eight PBA players, whose citizenships are being questioned, must first be "premised" as "bogus" Filipino Americans before PBA personnel are to be included in the investigation.

Gonzalez also ordered Paras to "include any other person or persons who facilitated or conspired in the preparation and submission of spurious evidence of citizenship of players to enable them to play in the PBA."

The harshest part of Gonzalez's memo is this: "It is obvious that public documents were tampered with and/or faked, which will constitute fraud and falsification of official records."

Doesn't the word "obvious" mean more than the truth?

And then this bombshell from Gonzalez, as quoted by our Philip C. Tuleza: "The DOJ would resolve the citizenship of the eight basketball players in 10 days time."

Wow! If Gonzalez can fulfill his promise, I will nominate him to be the INQUIRER Man of the Year.

For the record, the PBA players suspected of having submitted questionable documents to secure Filipino citizenship and become eligible for play in the PBA are Asi Taulava of Taik 'N Text, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Andy Seigle and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra, Jonathan Ordoño, Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull Barako, and Dorian Peña of

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



San Miguel Beer.

This was the result of a Senate hearing conducted last year, with then Sen. Robert Barbers as the committee chair. I had raised a glass here in praise of Barbers' heroism last year that's why when he lost his bid for reelection last May, I said the same line I'd been saying all these years: "This country, indeed, has a terrible dearth of intelligent voters."

Oh, well, what else is new? It happens all the time, that is why even convicts serving time can still get themselves elected.

Anyway, under the Constitution, only the DOJ has the final say in affirming the legality of a document pertaining to citizenship.

The PBA itself as an institution cannot be faulted in the case at hand because its rules are clear. For example, it considers Filipinos born to inter-racial marriages eligible for play provided they are affirmed as such by the DOJ.

In short, the PBA merely implements the ruling of the DOJ as to ignore the DOJ could land the PBA in hot water.

The records show the eight have fulfilled requirements required of them by the DOJ, which became the PBA's basis for them to be able to play in Asia's first play-for-pay league.

Hernando "Nani" Perez was the DOJ secretary when Taulava got his affirmation from the DOJ declaring him a Fili-Tongan and he was, therefore, eligible to play in the PBA.

Usually but not all the time, by operation of law, a decided case can only be reopened with the presentation of new evidence.

Perhaps, to add teeth to Gonzalez's order to reopen the case of Taulava & Co., Gonzalez should also order Paras to include Perez in the investigation?

Sanamabeach, that will be the day.

Manotoc wins, RP 2nd in Singapore

TOMMY Manotoc shot a one-under 71 yesterday to win the individual title and the Philippine team booked its best-ever second place finish in the Asia Pacific Senior Amateur championships at the Raffles Country Club in Singapore.

The 55-year-old manager of the Calatagan Golf Club in Batangas bucked a double bogey on No. 14 to finish with a two-under 214 total in the 54-hole tournament and give the Philippines its first individual championship in the event.

The team failed to convert on a sweet sweep after Richie Garcia shot a 74, Bing Buni an 80 and Caloy Coscoluela an 82 as rock-solid Australia overhauled a three-shot overnight deficit and won by seven.

"We lost a golden opportunity," said Manotoc, who beat a New Zealander by five in the individual race, in an overseas

call to the INQUIRER. "It would have been historic. But that's golf."

The Philippines was represented by its strongest team ever for the first time in this tournament.

Francis Gaston could have helped a lot, but the reigning RP champ was not allowed by his physician to play after undergoing an MRI scan a few days before the team's departure. Musong R. Castillo

SPORTSWATCH



RACING SWEEP: Roman Morales (1) passes Miguel Laxaro in the fifth lap en route to victory in the National Junior Touring Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas over the weekend. Morales, who is supported by Paragon Brokerage Corp., Lifeline, Countryside Restaurant and Shik Racing, posted four victories, making him the winningest driver in the 9th and 10th rounds of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix. He swept both races in the National Junior Touring Car Championship as well as in the Novice Division.

Bombers bow to Sharks in FIBL

THE 2004 Filipino-Indian Basketball League (FIBL) Ambassador's Cup opened last weekend at the Makati Coliseum with defending champions Bombers bowing to the Blue Sharks, 70-57, in the main game of the doubleheader. The Sharks dictated the tempo from the start, racing to a 9-0 lead behind Rakesh Chandumal and Prandeep Bar, and padding it to 42-26 at halftime lead. Bomber main man Kenneth Sharma together with Rajesh Chulani joined hands in the third quarter that enabled the Bombers to cut the lead, 46-54, going into the last quarter. Chandumal led all scorers.

Davao entry rules 4th GCAP tilt

DAVHOSE entry EDL Farms of Ramon Manoceras and Tony Faustino of Davao ruled the fourth leg of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stage Derby last Tuesday at

Las Piñas Coliseum. EDL Farms racked up five straight wins to register its second derby championship. The next GCAP 5-Stage Derby, to be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor-Casino Filipino, will be held on Monday, Oct. 4. Two more events will be staged on Oct. 11 and 18. Participants must submit their entries on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and may contact 8743910 and 8731040 (look for Gerry or Julius). The 4-stage derby of Ray Oliveros sizzles on Oct. 9 (Saturday) while Patrick Antonio's Clean-up 5-Stage Derby unfolds on Oct. 25.

PCC hosts 5-stage derby today

BIGTIME cockers converge tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit to see action in a 5-Stage Derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Milo Free. More than 70 fights are lined-up in this event to be hosted by Ferdie Lim. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000. Among those seeing action are Benjie Jim, Poi Estrellado, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Gerry Ramros, Louie Cua, Judge Magdangal Erima, Cito Manansala, Lito Roque, Blandy Tolentino, Arman Santos, Tony Lasala, Joel Fernando, Mon Torres, Joey Lapid and Richard Bates. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Stag Festival at Roligon

THE 2004 edition of the annual Stag Festival 5-Stage Derby hits the limelight tomorrow at Roligon Mega Cockpit as promoter Rolly Ligon & Thunderbolt Power Feeds continue their 13-year partnership in staging record-breaking cocking events. Two hundred gameword breeders have submitted their stags for screening and leg banding. Stags banded for last month's RAY-Shawdown stag derby are also accepted. The Stag Festival requires an entry fee of P6,600 with a guaranteed prize of P1,000,000 for this Oct. 2-6 scuffle.

AT SAGUPAAN BY MR. BOB

Race	1-1	2-1	3-1	4-1	5-1
Prize	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
Race	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1
Race	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1
Race	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
Race	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Race	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Race	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1
Race	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Race	9-1	9-1	9-1	9-1	9-1
Race	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1

Saragoza now 5 up over Bernis

LIPA, Batangas—Consistency is the name of the game and it's the reason Boyet Saragoza is a round away from the national finals of the Samsung Amateur Tour.

Saragoza's second one-over-par 73 in three days yesterday boosted him ahead by five strokes in the championship division going into the last 18 holes of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations at the Mt. Ma. Arayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

With two birdies and three bogeys on a day disaster struck his Canlubang teammate and second round co-leader Ronnie Torrecampo. Saragoza posted a 54-hole aggregate of 218 after earlier rounds of 73 and 72.

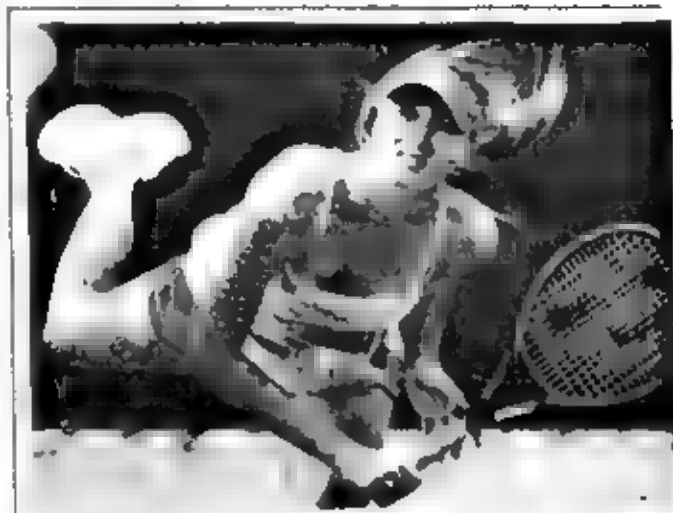
Saragoza, however, is up against a formidable foe on the last day—Jun Bernis. The Puerto Rico world amateur-bound national champion Bernis kept himself in the fight with a 74 for 223 in the tourney also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, K2G by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patis Boracay, Copertone Sport, and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Torrecampo thought he was tied at 223 with Bernis when he submitted his scorecard (78) until he found out that he signed a birdie 3 instead of a 4 on the third hole and got disqualified.

First-day frontrunner Jong Laput had a 76 for 224 while Dave Hernandez, carding a two-under 70 with the help of a 190-yard 4-iron third shot that found the hole on the 18th for an eagle, was at 226.

In the other divisions, Emil Alviar aced the sixth hole of the Malapuyo course on the way to a 77 and the Class B lead. The other leaders in the men's division were Rodel Mangulaban with a 76 in Class A, Arnie Fuentebella with an 82 in Class C and Joven Papis with an 89 in Class D.

In the ladies' competition, Lisa de Guzman paced Class A with a 71, Tess Staub (81) showed up Class B and Mi Jung Yoon (85) was the Class C leader.



SHARP AS EVER

Russia's Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova serves against Japan's Miho Saeki during the second round of the Hansol Korea Open Tennis Championships in Seoul Thursday. Sharapova defeated Saeki, 6-3, 6-1.

AP/WIDE

Murakami pulls away

Leads Riviera Amateur by six strokes

ARTEMIO Murakami birdied two of the last four holes to match par-71 at Riviera's Langer layout yesterday and pull away from the pack with a whopping six-stroke lead over Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan after three rounds of the third Riviera Amateur golf championship in Silang, Cavite.

With fancied Juvic Pagunsan fumbling at the start, Murakami's steady three-birdie, three-bogey round gave the former national champion a 54-hole total of 213.

With Pagunsan blowing his bid with a 79 and the rest of the field failing to match the day's best round of 71 at the hazard-laden layout, Murakami found himself way ahead of the pack—leader by six.

Bayron and Dumandan took the challengers' role by carding 72 and 74, respectively, for 219s going into the last 18 holes

of the tournament sponsored by Pacports and DHL.

Pagunsan, just three strokes behind Murakami at the start of the day, slid to fourth place at 223 after submitting a 79.

The spearhead of the national team to next month's World Amateurs stumbled with a triple-bogey seven on No. 1 and a bogey on the next hole. He dropped three more strokes at the back and closed out without a birdie in a 39-39 card.

Bayron bogeyed three of his first four holes but checked his skid in time with a birdie on No. 5 before gaining back-to-back strokes from No. 15.

Like the top six players in the field, Bayron bogeyed the tough par-4 18th for that 72.

Dumandan stayed within sight of Murakami with a birdie on the par-5 10th but failed to sustain his charge and instead bogeyed two of the last seven holes for a 74.

Meanwhile, Bobby Celestino paced the Championship II division with a 77, two strokes ahead of Eric Gozo and Mico Yee, who both shot 79s. Tuan Nguyen made an 82 while Jose Mari Hechanova stood a shot back at 83 together with King Stehmetz.

Young Seob Shin, Jon Judan and Teody Pascual shared the provisional lead in Class A with identical 81s with Joey Solis at 82 and Lloyd Matutina, Allan Arcilla and Chito Condes all carding 83s.

Teammates back Ichiro history bid

OAKLAND, California—Ichiro Suzuki's teammates won't stand for anybody messing with his spectacular season. When Suzuki was hit in the back by a pitch, Seattle starting pitcher Bobby Madritsch nearly lost his cool.

The rookie was ready to hit the next Oakland batter until his teammates calmed him down. Suzuki appreciated the support, but was happy Madritsch stayed calm.

Suzuki's fifth-inning single gave him 255 hits, two short of George Sisler's 84-year-old major league record, and the Mariners sent the Athletics into second place in the American League West for the first time since Aug. 5 with a 4-2 victory Wednesday.

Suzuki has four games remaining to get the record. If he doesn't do it Thursday against A's left hander Mark Redman, he will most certainly reach the mark this



SUZUKI

AP/WIDE

weekend during Seattle's season-ending series against Texas back at Safeco Field.

"If it's at home in front of our fans, so be it," manager Bob Melvin said. "But I'd like to see him do it tomorrow and get it out of the way."

The star leadoff hitter was booed when he stepped into the batter's box in the first inning, then walked on a full count. He struck out swinging in the third, then hit an infield single to shortstop in the fifth. He grounded out to second to start the eighth on a 13-pitch at-bat, then was hit in the back by Justin Duchesneer in the ninth.

It enraged Madritsch, who stood up in the dugout.

"As a teammate, having him say that makes me really happy," Suzuki said. "But it was good he was able to control his emotions. If he's going to have a future in baseball, he'll have to control his emotions." AP

SBMC

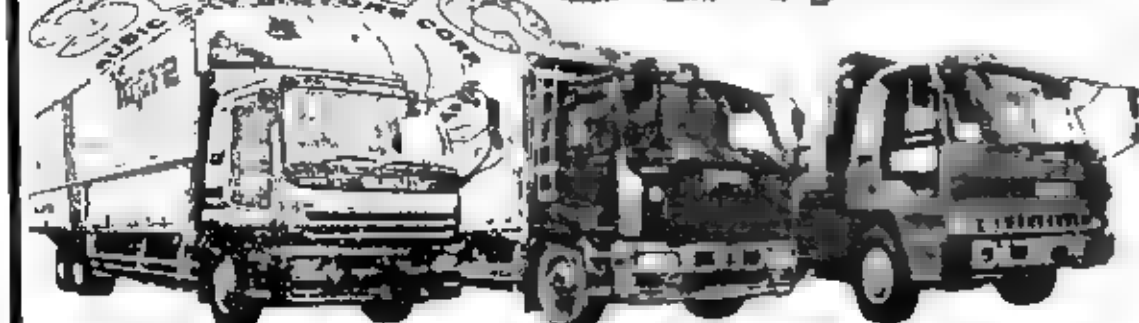
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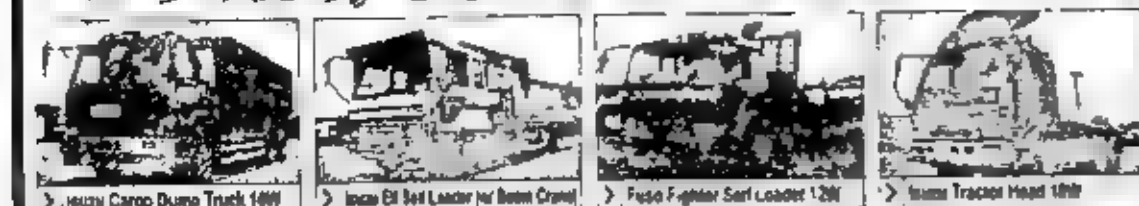


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Sta. Lucia golf gets going today

DAVAO—Eagle Ridge opens its quest for a fourth overall crown when the fifth season of the Sta. Lucia Tour, a series for clubs flying the banner of the real estate giant, kicks off today at the hazard-laden Rancho Palos Verdes course here.

Challenging Eagle Ridge will be the six other golf and country clubs in the field—2002 winner Alta Vista of Cebu, Orchard, Royale Tagaytay, host Palos Verdes, Lake Caliraya Springs and Tour debutante

Summit Point.

This week's leg is actually Batch A of the two-part Mindanao leg of the Sta. Lucia Tour. Batch B, made up of another 144 players, will play on Oct. 14-16.

Each club will be required to field in a minimum of three four-man teams. The overall champion club will bring home the Sta. Lucia Cup for the bragging rights until the 2005 tour. One hundred and forty-seven individual and team trophies are at stake this year.

Who owns RMSC?

THIS long-standing question has resurfaced recently after former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the smart money pick to become the next POC president, said in an interview that he plans to sell the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

"He cannot do that," objected Manila officials headed by Mayor Lito Atienza, "because the city of Manila owns the RMSC."

Some years back, I wrote about a similar claim to the choice property by Councilor Grepco "Burch" Belgica, who stressed that Manila's claim to the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was based on a city council resolution passed in 1996. A former convict who turned a new leaf by becoming a preacher, Belgica backed his claim by submitting (upon the suggestion of then PSC chair Philip Juico) to former President Fidel Ramos a certified photocopy by the Register of Deeds of the title of the property together with a brief history of the RMSC's construction and development by the city of Manila.

Subsequently, minority floor leader Don Ramon Bagatsing joined the clamor to recover not only the RMSC, but also the Rizal Park, Manila Harbor and Intramuros, the city's so-called "crown jewels" or pieces of prime property that were taken away from the local government during the martial law years.

Said Bagatsing in a letter to this corner: "The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex is patrimonial property owned by the city of Manila. It is unfortunate that jurisdiction over the RMSC was taken from the city during the martial law period. With a mere stroke of a pen (Presidential Decree) Manila lost RMSC."

"Because of legal obstacles, the city of Manila has no control nor authority over its premier play-

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Inigo

ground, the RMSC. The only way the RMSC can be under Manila's authority is through national legislation, either by amending or repealing the Presidential Decree that transferred authority of the RMSC to the Philippine Sports Commission."

Then one of the best in Asia, the RMSC was built in line with the policy of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, now defunct, to establish sports centers all over the country. For starters, the PAAF took over the functions of the Playground and Recreation Commission in 1920 to develop the vast area, including portions of Taft Avenue, Harrison Plaza and the Manila Zoo. In 1932, the PAAF by an act of the Philippine Legislature, was permitted to conduct sweepstakes draws, the proceeds of which were used for the construction of the sports complex named in memory of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. Several events were held to raise funds for the project, including a blockbuster three-game series in December 1934 featuring the American Major League All-Star team that included baseball superstars Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Charlie Gehringer.

The RMSC was finished at a cost of P1.5 million in 1936 when Jorge Vargas was the PAAF president.

Stallion Cup tees off today at Malarayat

HUNDREDS of alumni and guest players plunge into action when the De La Salle-Lipa's 3rd Stallion Cup Golf Tournament fires off at 7 a.m. today at the Club Malarayat in Lipa City.

Defending champion Piong Quiocho and two-time team talist Barch 1979, the school's silver jubiliarians, will put their crowns on the line in the tournament co-sponsored by Smart Phils. Inc. and held to raise funds for the Bro. Jaime Hilario

Learning Community. DLSLs free night school.

Competitions will be held in classes A, B, C and ladies in the event also backed by Spider Security Services and Buenavista Nature Homes and Country Club.

Hole sponsors include Apotek Asia, Carter Phils., Rep. Oscar Gozos & Max Designs, Gerry Concepcion, Larry Acazar, Sonny Bautista Jr., and Michael and Dennis Hernandez.

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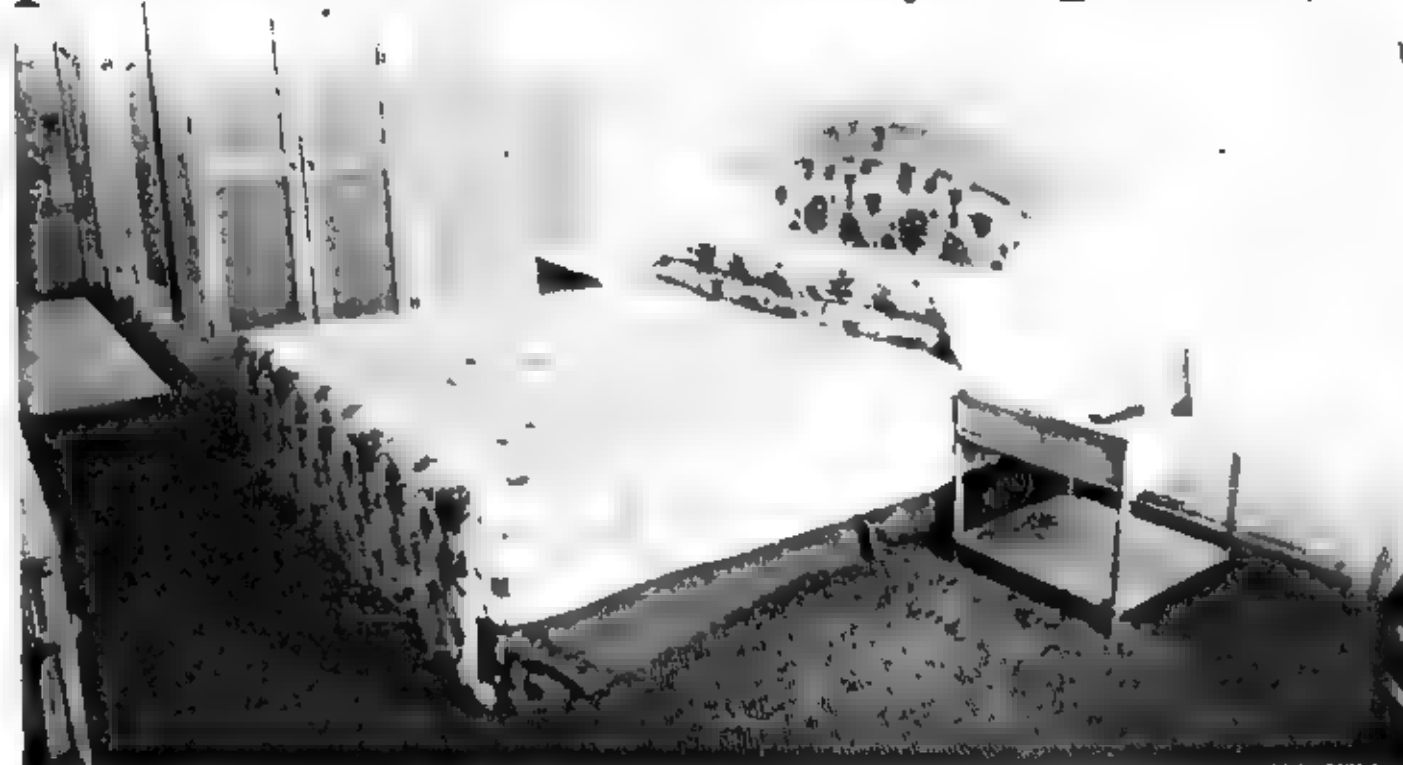
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So make that reservation now and avail of the Presyong Pinoy Package at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino! Promo will run until Dec. 31. For inquiries or reservations, please call (032) 232-6888 or Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888.



AT THE contract signing of 'Weddings at Bellevue' were (from left) The Bellevue Hotel assistant director for sales Mina Sabina, JCA Productions fashion director Jackie Aquino, The Bellevue Hotel general manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata and The Bellevue Hotel senior events manager Ian Castacutan.

Blushing Brides at The Bellevue Hotel

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the premier party venue at the south of Metro Manila, will hold "Weddings at Bellevue" this Oct. 16 to 17 at the hotel's Laguna Ballroom. The first ever bridal exposition to be held at Alabang's leading business and leisure hub. The event is envisioned to be the "bridal fair of all bridal fairs."

A truly unique and glamorous bridal show will be led by fashion director Jackie Aquino,

along with top designers, stylists and models. High-end exhibitors will showcase their products and services, while resource speakers will provide insights and ideas on how to plan your dream wedding. As many as 500 guests, among them celebrities and famous personalities, will attend this two-day affair.

"Weddings at Bellevue" is done in preparation for the opening of the Bellevue Ballroom, the biggest and most modern ballroom at the

south of Metro Manila. Expected to be fully operational by the end of the year, the two-story structure with a 1,000-person maximum capacity will also have high-tech audiovisual equipment, state of the art videoconferencing tools and wireless technology to facilitate efficient presentations for corporate conventions, as well as trade shows, seminars, concerts, weddings and debuts. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

A musical October at the Century Park Hotel

THE ATRIUM Lounge of the Century Park Hotel is now the newest entertainment venue at the Century Park Hotel.

For the four weeks of October, the popular and well-loved Century Strings continues to entertain from 5 to 8:30 p.m. daily with their signature classical and soothing music. Starting 8:45 to 11:30 p.m., enjoy fine entertainment with the Grand Prize winner of Voice of Asia 2001 -- Ladine Roxas on Wednesdays; the fantastic Replay Band on Thursdays; classic and contemporary R & B greats are performed by Arthur Manuntag and His Trio on Fridays and enter the genre of retro music of the 70's hoppers turned CEO's of Johnny Cash

and the Jukebox on Saturdays.

The Top of the Century continues to feature its finest and affordable cuisine in Sunset Specials from 6 to 9 p.m. at P260++ per person. Drink-All-You-Can of Carlsberg draft beer, soft drink, chilled juice, ice tea, four seasons and fruit punch and an Eat-All-You-Can of their Pica-Pica of the day offering complemented with scintillating music from their pianist and singer Leilani Trinidad on Mondays, Wednesdays and Noel Peredo on Fridays and Acoustic guitarist-vocalist Koko Marbella on Tuesdays and Thursdays is truly a great way to cap an evening.

Primetime Evenings at the Top of the Century which starts from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Mondays to Saturdays at P300++ per person features the Harry's Bar Chanteuses Amari on Monday with pianist Eddie Juanan, Diane Sison on Tuesdays with pianist Ben Uy, Alfie Canedo with pianist Eddie Barillo on Wednesdays, Carmela Cuneta and pianist Bobby Cabral on Thursdays, April Ramos and pianist Ben Uy on Fridays, Armina Gonzales with pianist Eddie Barillo on Saturdays and Special Themed Shows on selected nights.

You can enjoy a musically-filled night at the Century Park Hotel's entertainment venues - Top of the Century or it's newest venue the Atrium Lounge.

This October at Fiesta San Miguel's Kiddie Corner

CELEBRATE Family Day with a brunch buffet spread of Filipino dishes every Sunday at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel. Pegged at P750++ for adults and P375++ for kids aged 3 to 12, different kinds of entertainment and activities await all kids.

For this month, Roppets Education will entertain all kids at the restaurant's Kiddie Corner. Learn and enjoy the Puppet Show on Oct. 3; balloon lovers will enjoy the Balloon Twisting on Oct. 10; see and have your pictures taken with Nemo the mascot on Oct. 17; be amused with the Bubble Show on Oct. 24; and play with Mike Monster Mascot on Oct. 31.

For queries and reservations, please call 867-3333 local 3308

People, Events & Products

Storytelling at the San Miguel kids camp

ELEMENTARY school children huddled around a storyteller in the recent Batang San Miguel Kid's Camp of the San Miguel Foundation. The event

brought together around 75 elementary school children from Barangays Queblawan, Maimpis and San Isidro in San Fernando, Pampanga for a

day of learning while having fun. The one-day camp was conducted with the assistance of San Miguel Corporation Scholars in the area as a way of giving back their service to their community. The scholars also applied personal efficacy and communication skills learned from trainings conducted by the San Miguel Foundation. A similar kid's camp was also held in Bacolod City recently.



Similar festivities are scheduled in other selected venues nationwide.

This year's SMB Oktoberfest includes beer drinking contests as well as a "Tara Na, Party Na" (Let's Go, Party) affair with some of the country's top bands and recording artists performing as early as 12 noon, including Francis

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Entertainment stories, A33-A40

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX	
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4	FENG SHUI 11:35 am 1:50 pm 4:15 pm 6:30 pm 8:45 pm
5	BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:00 pm 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
6	HUMANITA BKA KA 11:35 am 2:45 pm 4:15 pm 6:25 pm 8:35 pm
7	SECRET WINDOW 12:00 pm 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
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Oct 9	ALICIA KEYS 2004 WORLD TOUR

MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EAS EHN	CLOSED
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMBS/PAMPAGORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BLUES FOR BASS/KASHYF AM
ROBIN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	QUEEN
TANDEM-2	WOLFGANG PETERSON/KO
TIMES	SPY GLASS 2/CRUCIFIX

QUEZON CITY	
ACT 1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	BARRO KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KALAK SA PAMPAY
CONQUEST	KISS ME IN THE RAIN
CONQUEST 2	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTOLINO PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TAJIMA 2000
B	CLOSED
C	CLOSED

MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	THE AMERICAN PRINCESS/PRINCESS GAMES 2003/2004
PREVIEW THEATRE	ANALOGUES

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(661-5401 TO 13)
CINEMA-1	SINER
CINEMA-2	KISS ME IN THE RAIN
CINEMA-3	AMOROUS
CINEMA-4 (POLY DIGITAL)	EXTREMITY: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-5 (DIGI)	HERNAN'S FORD
CINEMA-6	ALIENS VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-7	KAPANG PAKY BAKING (DIGI PRE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-8	DON'T TEMPT ME (PRE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DIGI)	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-10 (DIGITAL IMAX)	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-11 (DIGI)	WOLFGANG PETERSON
CINEMA-12	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-14	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SCHOOL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	BARRO KO PERO MASAKIT

NEGINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ANALOGUES
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	BOURNE
CINEMA-4	TELEVISION

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	BARRO KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MURDER BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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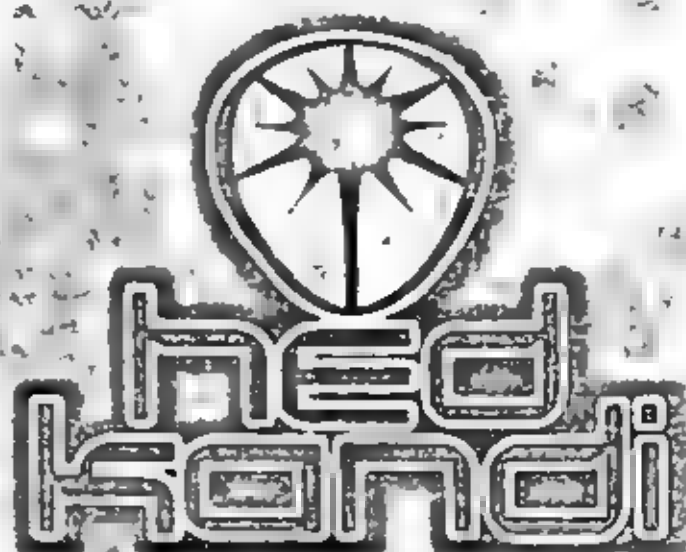
CAST:
Japavee Charoenpue, Christy Chung, Suwint Panjamasat,
SYNOPSIS:
Jan Dara is a film set in the moody and turbulent Thailand of
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earliest memories recall his own father having sex with his
childhood nanny. In this topsy-turvy and obsessive world. At the
tender age of thirteen, he was cast out of his comfortable but
troubled household after his stepfather accused him of rape.
Years later Jan Dara returns home to seek revenge on his
father by outdoing his father's sexual conquests and making
him be witness to his triumphs. He is unwillingly becoming the
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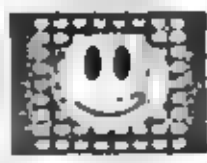
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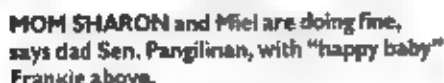
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Editor Louie C. Canino



By Marinel R. Cruz

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta's new baby, Mariel Daniela Sophia or Miel, is more "demanding and impatient" than her elder sister Frankie, according to Sharon's husband, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan.

"Frankie is a happy baby," the senator told INQUIRER Entertainment on the phone last Wednesday. "She didn't cry as much as Miel does."

"We notice that Miel cries whenever she gets wet. She won't stop until her diapers are changed. She's also like that when she's hungry. I told Sharon, 'we should have nicknamed her *Ora Mismo*.'"

Sharon gave birth to Miel via caesarian section on Sept. 3 at the Asian Hospital in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Frankie, short-for Francesca Simone Emmanuelle, is now 3 years old.

When asked how Frankie is coping with the addition of another baby in the Pangulinan home, the senator said "She's okay. She was prepared. She had been praying for a new baby."

"In fact, she doesn't call Mie her baby sister. She calls her 'my baby,'" said Kiko, while Frankie could be heard squealing in the background. "Also, Frankie got gifts from the baby last Sept. 2. She received chocolates and candies from baby Mie."

Almost a month after Miel's birth, mother and daughter are now occupied with breast-feeding, according to the senator. "They're both fine," he said. "We've been having sleepless nights, but it's okay. Miel has not had anything but breast milk."

He said Sharon was wheeled into the Asian Hospital at 5.15 a.m. She gave birth around 6.30 a.m. Miel weighed 8.2 pounds and measured 51 centimeters long.

He said that Sharon, while having birth pains the night before, kept saying, "ayoko na." But the next day, while cradling the newborn, Sharon said her doctor told her she could have another baby next year.

"But we'll see," said Sharon's husband. "The heart is willing but the body is . . . *Mahirap kasi magbuntis si Sharon. I think we'll rest first.*"

Sharon has not made any announcement yet as to when she will resume work in show business. But Sen. Pangilinan said his wife is preparing for a series of shows in the United States next year.

Kristina Cassandra or KC, Sharon's eldest daughter from her previous marriage to former actor Gabby Concepcion, is in Paris where she is a college freshman.

[illegible]

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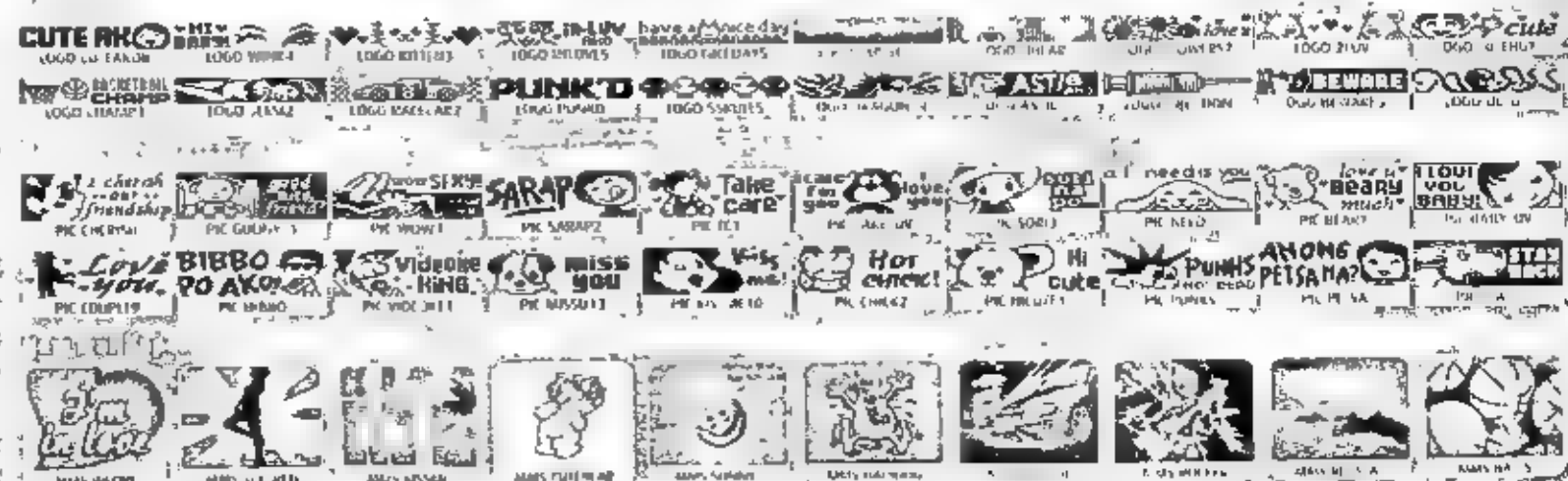
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5 RESIDENT EVIL 2 10:45, 1:30, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	6 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10:20, 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 THE TERMINAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
8 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 FAHRENHEIT 9/11 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	10 THE NOTEBOOK 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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FENG SHUI 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SECRET WINDOW 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00	FAHRENHEIT 9/11 10:10, 12:35, 1:40, 3:55, 7:50, 10:00

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6 SECRET WINDOW 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 10:30	8 FENG SHUI 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 10:30

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11 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE	1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 RAISING HELEN	1 RAISING HELEN	1 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE
2 RAISING	2 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE	2 SECRET WINDOW	2 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE	2 13 GOING ON 30
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	3 RAISING HELEN	3 THE TERMINAL	3 FAHRENHEIT 9/11	3 DODGEBALL
4 FENG SHUI	4 FENG SHUI	GB1		4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 SECRET WINDOW		1 FAHRENHEIT 9/11	4 SECRET WINDOW	5 FENG SHUI
		2 RAISING HELEN	5 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	

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A14

SHOW TIME

Martin, Gary V in Gawad concert

MARTIN Nievera and Gary Valenciano join forces for a cause in the concert "Bawat Pilipino, Bayan!" the culminating event of the two-day first anniversary celebration of Gawad Kalinga.

Gawad Kalinga is the community development program spearheaded by Couples for Christ that aims to build 700,000 homes in 7,000 poor communities in seven years.

The concert is tomorrow, Oct. 2, at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. It also stars Kuh Ledesma, the Apo, Carla Martinez, Robert Sefia, Isay Alvarez, Bamboo and Joe Torre.

Some 500 dancers from several GK communities in Metro Manila, reformed juvenile delinquents who are now living productive lives, will perform side by side with the professionals.

In the cocktails before the concert, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo heads the list of special guests of honor which also include former President Corason C. Aquino, Vice President Noli de Castro, members of the diplomatic corps, Cabinet secretaries, senators and congressmen, local government officials, CEOs of major corporations, heads of schools and universities, and leaders of socio-civic groups and NGOs.

The event, which will gather about 100,000 GK volunteers from all over the country, celebrates the heroism of Filipinos here and abroad and the dramatic transformation of slum sires into peaceful and productive GK communities in 340 areas nationwide.

Today, activities will be held simultaneously.

Amateur boy bands will compete in the Harana Festival. Aspiring singers will vie for the titles of OPM King and Queen and Pinoy Diva. Dance groups from all over the country will outdo each other in a cultural show.

Cheer leaders will strut their stuff in the cheer-dance competition. The best products from the different regions of the country will be showcased in the abundance parade.

The carpentry skills of GK men will be tested in the Mr. Tatag contest. The cooking talents of GK women will be measured in the Mrs. Kapitbahayan tilt.

Musika Pagkakaisa will gather 2,000 guitarists from the different CFC music ministries to establish a Guinness world record in the biggest number of assembled guitarists playing together in one place.

For more details, call Ansel Beaso at 0917-6250756.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'Kuya' Germs in star-studded birthday bash

MASTER showman German Moreno marks his Oct. 4 birthday with a month-long, star-studded celebration starting tomorrow, Oct. 2, on "Master Showman Presents" on GMA 7.

Kuya Germs' birthday bash will open with a rare mini-documentary featuring the showman himself personally taking the

viewers on a trip to his colorful past, from his childhood days at O'Donnell to his school days at Letran and his life as a *tesonero* at Clover Theater in the old Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Featured in the birthday celebration are the country's top concert artists, such as Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez, singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid, Jambo

Gibbs, Jaya, Jay-R, Kyla, Zsa-Zsa Padilla, Kuh Ledesma and Gary Valenciano.

Also celebrating with Kuya Germs are former "That's Entertainment" stars Rufa Mae Quinto, Jessa Zaragoza, Sheryl Cruz, Marilyn Reynes, Keempee de Leon and Ara Mina.

His well-wishers include Pilita Cor-

rales, Elizabeth Ramsey, Claire de la Fuente, Imelda Papin and Eva Eugenio.

Also marking his birthday with him are groups like the Sexbomb Girls, Viva Hot Men, Ian Valdez and the Closet Queens, Viva Hot Babes, Bayanihan, Ballet Philippines, SOP B.O.Y.S., Kids at Work, Abstract Dancers and the Master Showman Teen Stars.



MASTER SHOWMAN German Moreno. The celebration starts tonight.



DIRECTOR Lamangan (fifth from left) with his stars (from left): Christian Vasquez, Luis Alandy, Russel Simon, Jeffrey Hidalgo, William Thio, Douglas Robinson and Paolo Paraiso

Lamangan-Lee revue opens tomorrow

THE REVUE "All About Men... Penis Talks" finally opens tomorrow night at the Music Museum and also on goes on stage on Sunday, Oct. 3 and Oct. 15 and 16.

"We're ready for opening night," declares director Joel Lamangan. "After many rehearsals, I am confident that we have a show. Christian Vasquez, despite his very hectic schedule, is ready. So are Luis Alandy, Paolo Paraiso, Carlo Maceda, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Douglas Robinson, William Thio and Russel Simon. Of course, Angelu de Leon and Jenine Desiderio and Rucci Chan are good as expected," the award-winning filmmaker adds.

"All About Men... Penis Talks" is written by another winner of many

writing awards, Ricky Lee.

Luis Alandy is expected to move the audience to tears with his performances in two drama sketches called "Batang Paslit" and "Military."

"Nakakaisipak talaga," says Luis. "Rehearsals pa lang, marami nang uniyak dahil nakakaisipak 'yung characters that I portrayed."

Carlo Maceda is a premature ejaculator, Paolo Paraiso is Pareng Pari, William Thio is Battered Penis and Russel Simon plays a boy for sale. Jeffrey Hidalgo plays a man with a size problem.

Produced by Manny Valera of DMV Entertainment Inc. and Arnold Vegafria of ALV Events International, "All About Men... Penis Talks" will

try to debunk myths about the Filipino male while at the same time, advocating a more enlightened, head-on awareness of the endless possibilities of humanizing, politicizing and eventually liberating the Filipino penis, the ultimate symbol of manhood.

"Penis Talks" sponsors are Bench Body, Rita Malumay, Larry Faustino and Lourdes Francisco of Propaganda, Crystal Clear Purified Drinking Water, NJ 107, Ping-Ping Lechon, Cozasa's Restaurant and People's Journal.

For inquiries, call Music Museum (721-0635 or 721-6726), DMV Entertainment (374-1361 or 415-0373), Ticketworld (891-5610), and National Bookstore outlets, or visit website at www.penistalkstheplay.com.

"Peng Shui" star Lotlot de Leon watched her own movie at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati, Tuesday night. Lotlot, who plays Kris Aquino's best friend in the movie, was

DID YOU KNOW...

with friends that included Mai Mai Davao, Sylvia Sanchez and her talent manager Cornelia "Angge" Lee.

SHOW TIME

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TICKETS TO JASMINE SHOW

Due to the overwhelming public response to the announcement of the initially by-invitation-only concert "Jasmine Trias: Fil-Am Idol Live in Manila" on Oct. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum, producer Starmedia is now selling limited tickets to the show, which also features Jay-R, Erik Santos and Christian Bautista. Call Starmedia at 854-3322 and 854-3300 or e-mail starmediaen2@aol.com. The concert is directed by Audie Gemora. Gerard Salonga is musical director.

October's romance at Wimbledon

FROM THE MAKERS OF NOTTING HILL

Will pre-match sexual hijinks give you the edge you need to win at tennis? Or will they distract you from mobilizing the killer instinct essential to victory? That's the earth-shattering question at the heart of "Wimbledon," a likable romantic movie set in the world of sports that follows the miraculous comeback of an insecure 31-year-old British tennis pro, Peter Colt (Paul Bettany), whose career resurrects on the wings of love.

In the eight years since Peter placed 11th in the International tennis rankings, he has sunk to 119th. At Wimbledon, where he's playing his last professional matches before taking a job as a tennis instructor at a fancy club, he meets and falls in love with an American tennis pro, Lizzie Bradbury (Kirsten Dunst). A super-competitive athlete, on the fast track to the women's championship, Lizzie appears unstoppable until Paul enters her life. As her defenses start to crumble, her concentration falters and the trajectories of their careers unexpectedly reverse. Paul credits Lizzie with spurring his triumphs, while she falls from grace. The film is about people who are willing to sacrifice everything for love.

The movie is strung with many memorable scenes like Peter and Lizzie meet cute in a hotel when he is accidentally given the keys to her suite and catches her in the shower. Lizzie and her father have a noisy little dog that threatens to give away a secret midnight rendezvous and magical moments like a comet appears just in time to underline a passionate kiss.

Peter and Lizzie are the latest screen couple spun off from a familiar romantic template: the soft Brit male heartthrob and the hard female American go-getter. Think Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts in "Notting Hill," and real-life couples like Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow. Mr. Bettany's thoughtful, open-hearted Peter makes American sports heroes with their Rambo-style machismo look like brass-knuckled babies. He is generous enough to go after a woman who has more drive without being frightened off. It all has a vague historical subtext. Sure, the Brits are more civilized, but the Americans are the winners. It's been that way since 1776.

Produced by the same blokes who brought you "Notting Hill," "Bridget Jones' Diary" and "Love Actually." So in "Wimbledon," expect a lot of hit songs, a lot of laughs and a lot of tears. It's one of those feel-good romantic movies that moviegoers and critics doesn't have to feel bad about recommending. *



Kirsten Dunst and Paul Bettany in Wimbledon



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Outsourcing phenomenon discussed on CNN

LAST month, we viewed a CNN program that discussed the acutely topical subject of global outsourcing of services, specifically the call center boom in India.

We listened to the discussion intently, because we felt that some of the insights derived from the show could be made to come to bear on the Philippines' own call center phenomenon.

Although the discussion was rather diffusely moderated (by Jim Clancey), some of the speakers made exceedingly relevant points:

From the US perspective, it was brought out that American workers are feeling the pinch due to the loss of some jobs that are now being filled by call center personnel in India and the Philippines.

The Indians' point of view was more complex and, on occasion, even contradictory. One speaker lauded the outsourcing boom because it gave well-paying jobs to

some 300,000 middle-class youths in India.

However, another speaker bewailed the fact that call center employees were becoming too westernized and estranged from their families' traditions and principles.

It was also revealed that Indians were paid only about one-fourth what their US counterparts were getting. So, the "boom" was not as beneficial as it has been described to be.

On the other hand, a third speaker pointed out that, despite this disparity, Indian call center employees' salaries were much higher than what workers in other fields were receiving—so the boom was real, after all.

Conversely, however, a resource person stressed that the boom benefited only 300,000 employees out of the country's population of over 1 billion, so the vast majority of Indians weren't participating in the better

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



times that the outsourcing phenomenon was supposed to be ushering in. So, what was the jubilation all about?

Well, responded yet another speaker, at least 300,000 people were doing better than they used to. In the past, one of India's problems was its "educated unemployed." Thanks to the call centers, those young graduates are now employed, so things are looking up.

We hope this discussion on CNN will trigger similar analyses here, to make better sense of the consequences, for good and bad, of the outsourcing boom that has also come to the Philippines.

Easy English seminars

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center is slating a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday starting Oct. 2, from 2 to 5 p.m. The comprehensive package of conversation, grammar and writing for college students, housewives and professionals runs for 30 hours. Call 842-6665 or 0917-6297718.

Feedback

FROM EDDY and Jan Co-Chua of Greenhills: "We have been watching the TV news more closely lately, and have several conclusions to make.

1. We are a nation of drug addicts who have turned criminals.

2. We are a nation of fathers who are rapists.

3. We are a nation of cell phone snatchers.

4. We are a nation obsessed with sex.

"Can we have some uplifting news? Must news almost always

be negative and disheartening? The only 'positive' news on TV nowadays is the news about the TV channel's foundation's activities—relief goods for typhoon victims, free schoolbags for a poor barangay, etc.

"We venture to guess that the first TV channel to accentuate the truly positive developments for a change will see its ratings zoom up."

Dance studio

HERE'S good news for dance dervishes: You can dance the night away at Bykes Café's new state-of-the-art dance studio. The classy studio also has billiards tables, a shower area, and ample free guarded parking space.

Dance to the beat of retro band music with the bar's award-winning dance instructors during and between sets. Bands include Men in Gold and Guarana on Monday, Mai Castro y La Banda and Cool Change on Tuesday and

Wednesday, the 2004 edition of the Circus Band and The Brothers on Thursday, and Mai Castro's group, Rhythm and Babes and Beats and Pieces cap the musical week. Call 750-0622.

'Where Our Love Grows'

SWING Out Sister, the dynamic duo that made waves with their hit single "Breakout," are back with a new album, "Where Our Love Grows," a classy collection of songs with homegrown pop and jazz rhythms and a bright breezy blend of R&B.

The album is the product of a creative collaboration among Swing Out's Corinne Drewery and Andy Conne and album producer Paul Stavey O'Duffy. It contains 12 tracks, including the Motown-esque "Love Won't Let You Down," the soul classic "Let the Stars Shine," and the Brazilian-influenced "Calpirinha."

Ramon Revilla, 77 and father of '80,' still has a lot...

From page A40

a conflict (of interest) if I were given the post because of Senator Bong."

Revilla said the President called him after the elections. She said, "Don Ramon—that's how she calls me sometimes—I can't give you public works because of Bong, but I will give you a similar post ... to head PEA." She said this would be my legacy because there would be more infrastructure built in Cavite through PEA.

"I said, 'yes Ma'am.'"

'Very wrong'

Citing his experience as chair of the Senate committee, Revilla said he has the know-how to be an effective chair of the PEA.

"The President trusts me," he said. "She knows I can handle the job."

"It's wrong to say that it's pay-back time," he added, referring to criticisms that President Macapagal-Arroyo had given him the post in return for his support during the May elections. "Very wrong. I did not go out of my way to help her win the elections."

Weeks before his appointment was announced, Revilla did his homework, reading hundreds of pages of minutes of PEA board meetings. He said he discovered what seemed to be an anomaly in the case of Thuneishi Heavy Industries, which reclaimed land in Cebu without a permit.

"I could be wrong about this, but I already consulted lawyers," he said. "If I'm wrong, then I'm sorry. Baka naman katangahan ko lang (It might be that I'm just stupid) I can always resign, you know."



REVILLA in the '70s

Bofill at Ayala

THE AYALA Malls again presents Angela Bofill in a free live concert at the Alabang Town Center today, Oct. 1, and Ayala Center Cebu tomorrow.

Bofill also had a free show at the Ayala Center Makati yesterday.

Bofill is expected to sing her hits "Break It to Me Gently," "You Should Know by Now," "This Time I'll be Sweeter" and more in the one-hour concerts at the other Ayala malls.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Ramon Revilla, 77 and father of '80,' still has a lot of life left in him

By Nini Valera

THE ACTOR who made millions in action movies in the '70s and who was a senator throughout the '90s until last June is now working for a pitance in the government.

Ramon Revilla accepted the appointment as chair of the Philippine Estates Authority without even asking how much it would pay him, Revilla told *Inquirer* Entertainment.

YESTERDAY

"Later on, I asked GM (general manager Teodorico) Taguinod (PEA general manager) if I have a salary and he told me, *wala rin*," the former senator claimed. "But I get a per diem every time there is a board meeting. It used to be P2,800 per meeting, but it was reduced to P1,800."

The amount will not even cover Revilla's gasoline expense for a week, but he said he will work even without

"I just want to serve for as long as there's still life in me," he said in Filipino.

With Revilla facing hectic days as "reclamation czar" at PEA, the former movie actor, who shot to fame playing anti-hero roles in movies like "Nardong Putik," "Pepeng Agimat," "Tiyagong Akyat" and "Cavite Boy," puts an end to his movie career. As recently as 2002, he appeared in "Agimat na Lolo," with his son, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., who is now the senator in the family, and his grandson Jolo, Bong's son.

"I can't do it anymore," Revilla admitted to *Inquirer* Entertainment. "I have to leave the movies behind."

But he turns his back on the movies without much regret.

"After all, I have achieved everything an actor would want to attain," he says. "At my peak, I was the highest paid actor."

Good money

Revilla, whose real name is Jose Bautista, was at the height of his career in the early '70s when he put up his own Imus Productions and churned out one hit after another. In most of these movies—at least 50 of them, he said—he was the star, director, writer, researcher and sometimes the legman.

"Legman because I had to fetch my leading ladies, cajole them when they were not in the mood," he said. "I did everything for my movies, and I have been repaid very well. I earned good money and was able to buy land and property in Cavite. I was able to save and even develop subdivisions in Imus and Kawit, both prime towns in Cavite. All that I have come from my movies."

He was discovered for the movies by producer Cortes Quilatan of CorQui Productions in the '50s while he was pumping gas by hand at a gasoline station which he owned. Quilatan renamed the gasoline boy Acuña Gallardo for the movies. But the actor became a superstar only about two decades later.

He first languished in small roles in LYN movies, but got his first starring role when he joined Sampaguita Pictures where the late Dr. Jose Perez renamed him Ramon Revilla and put him in the movie "Ulila ng Bataan," where he played the savior of Tessie Agana. When his contract expired, he moved to Larry Santiago Productions and then temporarily quit the business, opting to take a job as a criminal investigator in Camp Crame and later on working at the Bureau of Customs where he stayed for eight years.

In 1972, a movie about a Cavite hoodlum catapulted Revilla into superstardom. "Nardong Putik," which he wrote and directed, broke all existing box-office records then and had a two-month run in Metro Manila theaters.

But the movie, a joint venture among Revilla and some investors, was almost banned for its violence. Martial law had just been declared and Guillermo de Vega, then chief of the Board of Censors, had wanted to cancel the movie's permit.

"By that time, the movie had al-



CAVITE BOY. "All that I have come from the movies," says the former senator, who evolved from a character actor in the '50s (below) to big-time actor, director and writer of his own movies.



my will that anybody claiming to be my child after I die must undergo a DNA test to prove my paternity," he added. "I already had a DNA test at the National Bureau of Investigation. The DNAs must match before the child is acknowledged."

More good years

But according to his supporters, Revilla is still years away from the grave, even after two surgeries in the spine and a triple heart by-pass. Before accepting the PEA post, Revilla and his children made sure that he was in top form.

"I had two weeks of check-ups," he said. "My doctors say I'm healthy and can handle the job. If I'm not, I can be replaced easily."

His limp, he said, is an old injury that he got during a movie shoot because he did his own stunts.

"My tendon was injured and it has caught up with me," he said. "I noticed that I began to drag my feet as I grew older. Now, I have this limp and I walk with a cane. Even the doctors in the US could not do anything about it."

He still has a few good years left in him and enough strength to perform his job well as PEA chair, he insisted.

"The President has told me that this is my legacy," he said. "I will do the best that I can. I promised her that I would rid the agency of graft and corruption. I would like to offer what's left of my life to do more service for the people."

He asks his critics to give him a chance, but vows to quit the job if he is proven to be incompetent.

"It might even cause my death," he said.

His legacy

How did he get the PEA post?

He related that on his 77th birthday last March, President Macapagal-Arroyo visited him in his house in Cavite. "To tell you the truth—the whole truth because I don't know how to lie—the President came to my house, and I told her, 'Madame, by June 30, I would be jobless.' She asked me what my plans were. She asked me if I wanted to be a member of the Cabinet, an ambassador or head of a corporation. I told her I wanted to be secretary of Public Works and Highways, and she said all right."

In the two terms that he served in the Senate, Revilla was chair of the Senate committee on public works. His son Bong, who was elected senator in the May elections, now chairs the committee.

"That's why I did not get the post of secretary of Public Works and Highways," Revilla explained. "It would be

RAMON: A39

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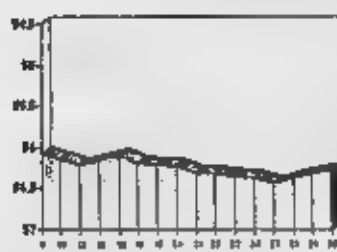
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PAL, CebuPac seen raising fares again

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By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines and Cebu Pacific Air said they were considering another round of increases in their fares, saying that the \$6 fuel surcharge for every one-way overseas ticket imposed last June was not enough to cover the rising cost of fuel.

Both carriers are worried that the profits they made in the previous months may be wiped out by the substantial increases in their fuel cost.

PAL, controlled by Lucio Tan, earned close to P1 billion in the first three months of its fiscal year (April to March), a turnaround from the P654 million in losses incurred in the last fiscal year ending March 2004. Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific, for its part, posted a net income of P480 million in the first half of the year.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said his company was still studying the numbers before filing a new fuel surcharge or fare hike petition with the Civil Aeronautics Board.

PAL said only overseas flights would likely be covered by the fare hike.

The airline explained that it was losing heavily on long-haul trips because it had to subsidize its passengers by absorbing the bulk of the additional cost of fuel.

For the Manila-US route, for instance, PAL said the subsidy averaged at \$80 per passenger. PAL charges passengers \$600 for a Manila-US-Manila ticket on lean season and \$1,000 during the peak season.

Cebu Air Pacific general manager Danilo Mojica said that if fuel prices would continue to go up, the Gokongwei-owned airline might have to pass on some of the additional cost to its passengers, including those taking domestic flights.

When the CAB allowed PAL and Cebu Pacific to collect \$6 fuel surcharge on a one-way overseas ticket in June, the price of aviation fuel was about \$43 to \$45 per barrel. In September, the price of jet fuel was already \$55.11 per barrel. Fuel accounts for 38 percent of an airline's operating cost per passenger.

PAL said that even at that time, it needed a fare hike or fuel surcharge of \$20.84 to recover its costs. Cebu Pacific was, at that



THE RISING cost of fuel leaves airlines no other choice but raise rates.

September 30, 2004

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.810373	1.000000	58.3360
Japan	Yen	0.007312	0.000000	0.5033
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458590	1.799900	101.3992
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.703917	0.128233	7.2241
Switzerland	Franc	0.643817	0.794470	44.7573
Canada	Dollar	0.638391	0.787774	44.3800
Singapore	Dollar	0.479369	0.591541	33.3251
Australia	Dollar	0.577559	0.712708	40.1511
Bahrain	Dinar	2.149644	2.652661	149.4403
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216100	0.268687	15.0230
Brunei	Dollar	0.477955	0.589797	33.2268
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000109	0.0061
Bahamas	Baht	0.019532	0.024102	1.3578
Bhutan	Dhruva	0.220642	0.272272	15.3387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.234000	69.5186
Argentina	Peso	0.271481	0.335008	18.8730
Brazil	Real	0.283447	0.350000	19.7048
Denmark	Kroner	0.134294	0.165719	9.3359
India	Rupiah	0.017621	0.021600	1.2250
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213262	0.263165	14.8257
Mexico	New Peso	0.070992	0.087604	4.9353
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541476	0.666000	37.6426
Norway	Kroner	0.119709	0.147721	8.3220
Pakistan	Rupiah	0.013696	0.016600	0.9572
South Africa	Rand	0.125860	0.155311	8.7496
Korea	Won	0.000703	0.000868	0.0489
Sweden	Kroner	0.110340	0.136160	7.6707
Syria	Pound	0.027905	0.034435	1.9399
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023966	0.029577	1.6662
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000423	0.000522	0.0294

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up

SHARES finished higher yesterday as the market recovered from three sessions of losses, led by telecom stocks, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index ended at its intraday high of 1,761.57 with a gain of 19.48 points, or 1.1 percent, after losing 1.2 percent this week, leaving it just a few points away from the 53-month closing high of 1,783.30 last Friday.

Gainers led decliners 43 to 32, while 56 stocks were unchanged. Telecommunications stocks once again dominated trading. Globe Telecom was the most actively traded, rising 0.9 percent to P1,090. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. followed with a gain of 0.4 percent to P1,395. Both are expected to turn in strong earnings for this year and the next due to the expanding cellular market. **Reuters**



(See stock market report on Page B2)

P21-B expressway project to start in Jan.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSTRUCTION of the long-delayed Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway project is seen to finally start in January, as the National Economic and Development Authority's Investment Coordinating Council approved the project on condition that it would cost only P21 billion, according to the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

BCDA president and chief executive Rufo Colayco said in an interview that after the NEDA approval, the agency needed only two more approvals from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which is funding the project.

"We expect to finalize the negotiations for the price with the contractors by the third or fourth week of October," Colayco said. "JBIC needs to approve that."

The official said the lowest bidders for the two segments of the 94.5-kilometer highway were KJUM consortium and the Hazama Tai-pei-Nippon group.

Colayco said that through previous negotiations with the bidders, the BCDA had man-

aged to reduce the cost of the project's civil works component to P22.1 billion from the initial bid price of P27 billion.

Upon instructions from Malacañang, the BCDA would again negotiate with the bidders to further reduce the cost to P21 billion.

Both the 50.5-km Subic to Clark component and the 44-km Clark to Tarlac component will consist of four-lane asphalt concrete pavement with asphalt overlay.

The project covers a total of four major bridges spanning the rivers of Gumain, Porac, Pasig-Potrero and Sacobia-Bamban; eight interchanges; 35 minor bridges, and 13 overpasses.

"We expect to complete in late November the negotiation on the details of the contracts, which JBIC must also approve," Colayco said. He said that if the timetable was met, the contracts could be awarded by December this year.

The 30-month construction period can then begin in January 2005 and end in July 2007, Colayco said.

The BCDA originally planned to begin construction work at the start of this year.

Spreads on RP bonds tightening

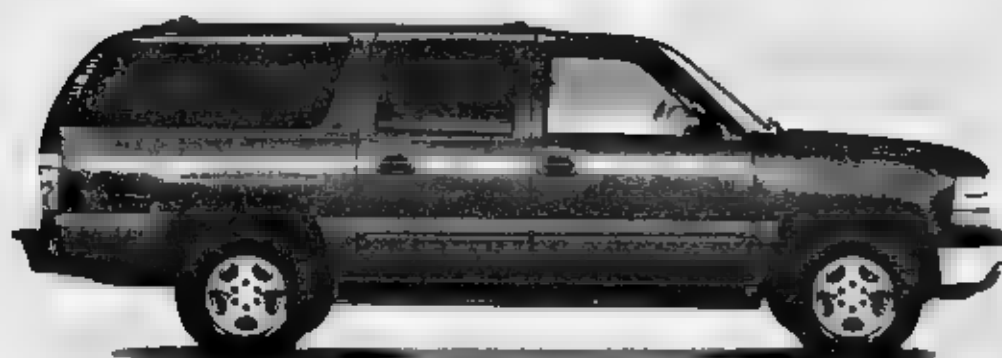
HONG KONG—Philippine sovereign dollar bonds firmed yesterday, catching up with the spread tightening trend seen in the broader regional market.

Other Asian dollar bonds also tightened, but in subdued trade, partly driven by positive sentiment after Moody's Investors Service placed Malaysia's sovereign ratings on review for a possible upgrade.

"Following September's sovereign upgrades of Brazil and Venezuela, emerging market funds may look towards the Philippines for yield," Standard Chartered bank said in a report.

The bank saw a potential pick up in returns on Philippines paper, which have been blowing out, by switching out of Indonesian debt. **SPREADS/B4**

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URC to set up shop in Hanoi

New book demystifies personal finance for Filipinos

FILIPINOS are not really clueless when it comes to achieving financial freedom. Most philosophies peddled by so-called financial gurus were ingrained ages ago in the Filipino psyche.

Saving for the rainy day, living within your means—these mantras have corresponding sayings in Filipino. They are not new, pioneering, or original.

The things that stump most Filipinos, though, are the little details: how to compute net worth, what exactly to expect from their savings or checking account, why their checks bounce, where and how to buy a bond and how to compute its returns, or making sense of the growing number of pre-need plans available. Investment professionals take these details for granted, but they frustrate and intimidate most Filipinos.

Moreover, books on personal finance that are available in local bookstores are not very helpful to Filipinos seeking financial advice as they are often written for an American, rather than Filipino, audience.

A middle management executive working in a conglomerate in Makati City e-mailed his criticism: "All the books that I see in the bookstores are useless... They talk about IRAs and instruments that are not available here, only in the United States."

"Pwede Nal The Complete Pinoy Guide to Personal Finance" (Platypus Publishing, 2004) seeks to demystify the art of personal finance for Filipinos. From pre-need plans to credit cards, from bonds to the stock market, the book is a clear source of information for young urban professionals,

overseas Filipino workers, or anyone who wants to get a handle on their financial future in a Philippine setting.

Aside from the book, readers who register their copy at the Platypus website (www.platypus.ph) are sent electronic worksheets to take the hassle out of number crunching and help them figure out which pre-need plan, loan, or insurance policy makes the most sense for them. One worksheet even helps parents find out how much they need to save for their child's college education.

"Pwede Nal The Complete Pinoy Guide to Personal Finance" will be out in bookstores in October. The book is also available direct from the publisher. Please contact Shiella Duca at (0916) 300-5672 or e-mail sduca@platypus.ph for details.

The author, Efren L. Cruz, for the past 20 years has been involved in various aspects of fund management, the last nine years of which have been in the mutual fund industry. He was, at one time, appointed vice president of The First Philippine Fund, a closed-end country fund listed in the New York Stock Exchange. It was his stint in the mutual fund industry where Efren learned a lot of lessons in personal financial planning. He regularly conducts personal financial planning seminars for his mutual fund clients.

Efren earned his Bachelor of Science degree, major in Business Management, from the Ateneo de Manila University. Later, he earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines, graduating fourth in his class.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. (URC) plans to open a new food manufacturing plant in Hanoi, Vietnam, early next year, according to industry sources.

Encouraged by the sharp growth of Vietnam's economy, URC has decided to set up shop there to manufacture snacks, biscuits and candies, sources said.

Already, URC has opened a commercial office in Ho Chi Minh City.

Lance Gokongwei, URC president and chief operating officer, earlier said he expected plant operations in Vietnam to start in March 2005.

Gokongwei said URC would set aside \$40 million this year to fund its expansion in both local and regional operations.

Aside from Vietnam, URC has manufacturing plants in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and China. It maintains commercial offices in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Gokongwei also said URC would spend roughly \$25 million to expand its production capacity for snacks in Indonesia, its biscuit production in Thailand, and its planned candy operation in Vietnam.

URC would also expand distribution lines in other cities in China, he added.

The Gokongwei-led holding firm JG Summit Holdings plans to introduce its popular salty snack line "Jack & Jill" as a regional food brand. It also hopes to expand its products abroad to include biscuit and chocolate brands.

"Seeing the promise of growth in the Asian region, we will continue the expansion of our branded consumer food products regionally," James Go, URC chairman, told stockholders last year. "We will be executing regional sourcing strategies to benefit from locations with the lowest cost of production and raw materials for specific products."

Despite increasing competition and weak economic conditions in the Philippines, URC posted net sales growth of 15.6 percent to P13.4 billion as of March. The figure represented its first half results with the fiscal year ending September, based on financial statements to the PSE. The growth was fueled by URC's branded consumer foods line, expansion of international operations in Southeast Asia, and strong sales of local agro-industrial products and commodity foods.

Recently, URC reorganized its management, restructured its sales unit and consolidated manufacturing operations and assets in Shanghai.

In the Philippines, the company plans to improve flour and sugar milling operations. It also plans to introduce new products in the snacks segment like chocolates, biscuits and candies.

URC aims to make its mark in Asia over the next five years as a major regional food brand.

Last year, URC became a market leader in biscuits in Thailand. In Malaysia, it continued its aggressive growth in coated nuts, potato chips and chocolates. In Indonesia, its subsidiary grew revenues dramatically and was touted as a leader in the candy segment.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 30, 2004)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bank of the Philippine Islands	17.3	17.5	17.25	17.5	437,500
Bank of Commerce	45	45.5	45	45.5	2,864,700
Bank of East Asia	530	530	530	530	1,700
Bank of San Carlos	42	42	42	42	23,000
Bank of the South Seas	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	180,700
Bank of the Orient	28	28	27.5	28	60,500
Bank of the East	22.75	23	22.75	22.75	2,700
Bank of the Pacific	28	28	28	28	10,000
Bank of the South	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	45,300
Bank of the North	20.15	20.15	20.15	20.15	2,000
Bank of the West	23.75	24	23.75	24	287,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manila Electric Co. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
Manila Electric Co. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
Manila Electric Co. C	2400	2400	2400	2400	80
Manila Electric Co. D	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	100,000
Manila Electric Co. E	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000
Manila Electric Co. F	1630	1645	1630	1645	3,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATIONS					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21	21,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co.	0.89	0.92	0.89	0.9	28,600,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. B	1080	1090	1080	1090	27,340
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. C	1.72	1.78	1.7	1.74	72,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. D	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.036	2,010,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. E	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	31,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. F	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	2,869,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. G	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. H	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	130,000
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. I	1400	1400	1395	1395	90,200
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. J	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.55	92,200
Philippine Long Distance Tel. Co. K	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	40,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15,300
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	23.75	24	462,500
Manila Electric Co. C	2.85	2.8	2.85	2.8	7,844,000
Manila Electric Co. D	2	2	1.9	1.92	23,000
TRANSPORTATION					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	210,000
Asian Terminals Inc. B	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	47,000
Asian Terminals Inc. C	5	5.2	5	5.2	1,050,000
Asian Terminals Inc. D	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	220,000
Engineering Equip. Inc. B	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	4,000
Engineering Equip. Inc. C	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,046,000
Engineering Equip. Inc. D	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.48	7,309,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Manila Milk Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	155,000
Manila Milk Corp. B	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	333,700
Manila Milk Corp. C	26	26.5	26	26	304,500
Manila Milk Corp. D	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.74	20,000
Manila Milk Corp. E	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	44,400
Manila Milk Corp. F	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	47,200
Manila Milk Corp. G	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,860,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Manila Milk Corp. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	8,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. C	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. D	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. E	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. F	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	500,000
Manila Milk Corp. G	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	250,000
Manila Milk Corp. H	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	125,000
Manila Milk Corp. I	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	62,500
Manila Milk Corp. J	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	31,250
Manila Milk Corp. K	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	15,625
Manila Milk Corp. L	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	7,812
Manila Milk Corp. M	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	3,906
Manila Milk Corp. N	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,953
Manila Milk Corp. O	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	976
Manila Milk Corp. P	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	488
Manila Milk Corp. Q	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	244
Manila Milk Corp. R	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	122
Manila Milk Corp. S	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	61
Manila Milk Corp. T	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	30
Manila Milk Corp. U	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	15
Manila Milk Corp. V	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	7
Manila Milk Corp. W	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4
Manila Milk Corp. X	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2
Manila Milk Corp. Y	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1
Manila Milk Corp. Z	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0
METALS, MINING & OIL					
Manila Milk Corp. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	8,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. C	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. D	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. E	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Manila Milk Corp. F	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	500,000
Manila Milk Corp. G	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	250,000
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Manila Milk Corp. T	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	30
Manila Milk Corp. U	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	15
Manila Milk Corp. V	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	7
Manila Milk Corp. W	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4
Manila Milk Corp. X	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2
Manila Milk Corp. Y	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1
Manila Milk Corp. Z	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0

NTC orders Meridian, 2 telcos, to settle dues or face sanctions

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered Meridian Telecommunications Inc., Bell Telecommunications Phils. and a phone company in Pampanga to settle outstanding regulatory dues or face sanctions.

Phone, broadcast networks and cable companies were supposed to settle yesterday their regulatory fees for 2004. The NTC said it would have accepted payments until midnight.

But some covered entities are questioning the NTC's computation of regulatory fees and thus, have refused to pay their outstanding dues. Pilipino Telephone Corp., for instance, allegedly has unpaid dues of P1.3 billion since 1997.

But NTC chair Ronald Solis said that covered entities should adopt the commission's computation of regulatory fees, which was 50 centavos for every P100 of paid capital.

"We have resolved the (computation) issue once and for all," said Solis. "They should

abide by our computation. Our order to Meridian applies to every telco."

NTC is supposed to collect P4.5 million from Meridian Telecommunications, a company now 40 percent owned by Smart Communications Inc. The telco data firm, previously controlled by the group of Mark Jimenez, would be 100-percent owned by Smart by end-2005.

Of the five companies with unpaid NTC regulatory dues, three belongs to the PLDT group. Aside from Meridian, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Piltil also have outstanding regulatory dues.

Smart Communications Inc. is also contesting the NTC's computation of the spectrum users' fee. Smart officials accused the NTC of double-charging its fees. PLDT and Piltil have taken their cases to court, the decision of which the commission must respect.

But Solis warned the carriers that they would be penalized if they failed to "show cause 15 days upon the receipt of the Commission's decision."

Love each other or perish

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MARIA Teresa Sicut, formerly a literature professor of the University of the Philippines, once gave me a book that relates to our survival as a nation.

"Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom is a bestseller that recounts the lessons of a dying professor to his former student. It is in teaching a person how to die, Professor Morrie says, that a person will know how to live. It is when one is confronted with death that a person realizes what is truly valuable in life. These are too often taken for granted. But the most important lesson Morrie imparts to his student is: "Love each other or perish."

COMMENTARY

Those who still had hope persuaded Mr. John Kim, who supported them in areas such as anti-smuggling, to run for Benigno board member. Despite Kim's very limited resources, he emerged with the highest number of votes because of the farmers' support.

Last week, a signing ceremony was scheduled for representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Philippines. This was for the alleged completion of the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for Chinese carrots. The carrot farmers were neither consulted nor invited to this ceremony. They know that PRA approval for a product sometimes takes as long as five years for Australia and three for Japan. They questioned why it took only 10 days from the formation of the PRA-Carrot team to the scheduled signing ceremony last Sept. 25.

Thankfully, Agriculture Secretary Yap responded to the farmers' need and canceled the ceremony the day before. Secretary Yap's action helped restore the farmers' faith in government.

For six months, Chinese carrots were sold at P7 a kilo. As a result, 80,000 Cordillera carrot farmers were forced to sell their produce way below their break-even price of P10. In addition, the Chinese carrots posed serious health risks.

Finally, the DA admitted this serious error and stopped the im-

portation. But by then, serious damage had been done. When the farmers requested an investigation, they were totally ignored. They believe this was because a powerful political personality was involved. The farmers concluded that the government had no love or compassion for them.

Many decided to join the armed struggle.

A week ago, his group alerted the BOC to the arrival of smuggled carrots. Customs Commissioner George Jeros acted quickly by apprehending container vans carrying these carrots in the presence of farmers and the media last Wednesday. That is the good news.

Bad news

The bad news is that, during this event, the BOC showed a document signed by the director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI). This letter stated: "We pose no objection to the tentative release of the carrots shipment to the importer for storage purposes only." The Alyansa Agrikultura, in a Senate hearing earlier this month, had already stated their objection to a similar arrangement granted by the BPI last Aug. 25. This was for 154 containers of smuggled imported onions. The recent BPI letter made the farmers feel that the knife was being twisted in their wound.

In the same letter, the BPI director wrote: "The necessary import permit must first be secured from this bureau before the same can be introduced to the local market." The farmers believe this violates two regulations: an import permit cannot be given to a product that has not passed the PRA and that an import permit cannot be given when the product has already arrived.

Good news

Edson Simson, the leader of the Cordillera carrot farmers, played a key role in helping bring down the smuggling rate of perishable

goods from 40 percent on Jan. 1 to less than one percent on March 31 last year. He provided tips to Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel on incoming smuggled goods. He participated with his fellow farmers in the government-private sector joint inspection of newly arrived container vans.

A week ago, his group alerted the BOC to the arrival of smuggled carrots. Customs Commissioner George Jeros

What they don't teach you at AIM

FORMER AIM president Felipe Alfonso should take crash lessons in Scam 101

The Ramon Magsaysay awardee is now the object of a P28.5-million collection complaint after he entrusted four pre-signed blank checks

to a smooth-talking car salesman whose family he wanted to give a second chance.

According to the legal grapevine, Alfonso thought that the blank checks that he handed to a certain Anthony Bitanga of Corinthian Gardens would go toward posting bonds related to alleged court cases in Batangas involving Alfonso.

It turned out that there was no Batangas judge, and, worse, that Alfonso had no pending cases in the province at all.

Instead, his checks were used to acquire three high-end, brand-new luxury vehicles—a Lamborghini Murcielago, a BMW 645 Ci, and a BMW X3.

Of the four Alfonso checks, the first one, for P4 million, cleared, and went to pay for the X3. The three others bounced.

Alfonso had already sought the help of Interior and Local Governments Secretary Angelo Reyes, an alumnus of the Asian Institute of Management, to recover his money and clear his name.

As well, Alfonso has hired lawyer Reynaldo Geronimo of the blue-chip Romulo Mabanta law firm in view of the impending estafa complaint against him, as the car dealer who had been paid the bouncing checks, Rolando Evangelista, is now running after both Alfonso and Bitanga.

"I have received extortion attempts to cough up (the) money, just to retrieve the cars and return them to the unpaid owner," Alfonso said in his letter to Reyes.

Strangely, Alfonso, who is also the vice chair of Metrobank in charge of the risk management committee, gave Evangelista the green-light after the car dealer, suspicious as to the amount and the number of checks, called him to countercheck.

Apparently, Alfonso, who admitted to talking to Evangelista on the phone, did not know that the checks were being used by Bitanga to acquire the exotic vehicles.

According to the grapevine, Alfonso trusted Bitanga, who is said to be in his late 20s, despite already having been traumatized in another case by Bitanga's father, after the young Bitanga personally apologized to Alfonso in behalf of his dad.

Incidentally, the elder Bitanga was an AIM student, like Evangelista, the car dealer.

Meanwhile, the X3 SUV has been seen being used by Bitanga himself, while the 645 Ci is now reportedly in the hands of another car dealer, Rolando Esguerra of Quezon City.

The yellow Murcielago, according to the grapevine, is now being driven around by a certain JP Lomotan, who claimed he had paid Bitanga P7 million for the exotic super car.

If the amount is correct, that P7 million is a bargain, considering that the 6.2-liter, V12-engine, 580 bhp, two-door sports coupe, capable of reaching speed of more than 330 kph, already costs about \$195,000 overseas, or more than P10.9 million, without taxes and freight charges yet.

But that, as well as who actually imported the three vehicles, is another story.

Buy high, sell low

DMCI Holdings has lately been a favorite of the stock market punters, despite the erratic investment strategy of one DMCI director-owner, Victor Consunji, toward the company stock.

While his fellow director Maria Edwina Laperal had been buying up the stock, beginning with 80 centavos a share all the way to P2.02, Consunji had been taking profit, selling 300,000 shares at P1.70 and another 500,000 shares at P2.06 in late August.

COCKTALES



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		45,000	90,000	100,000

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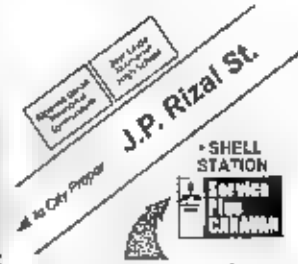
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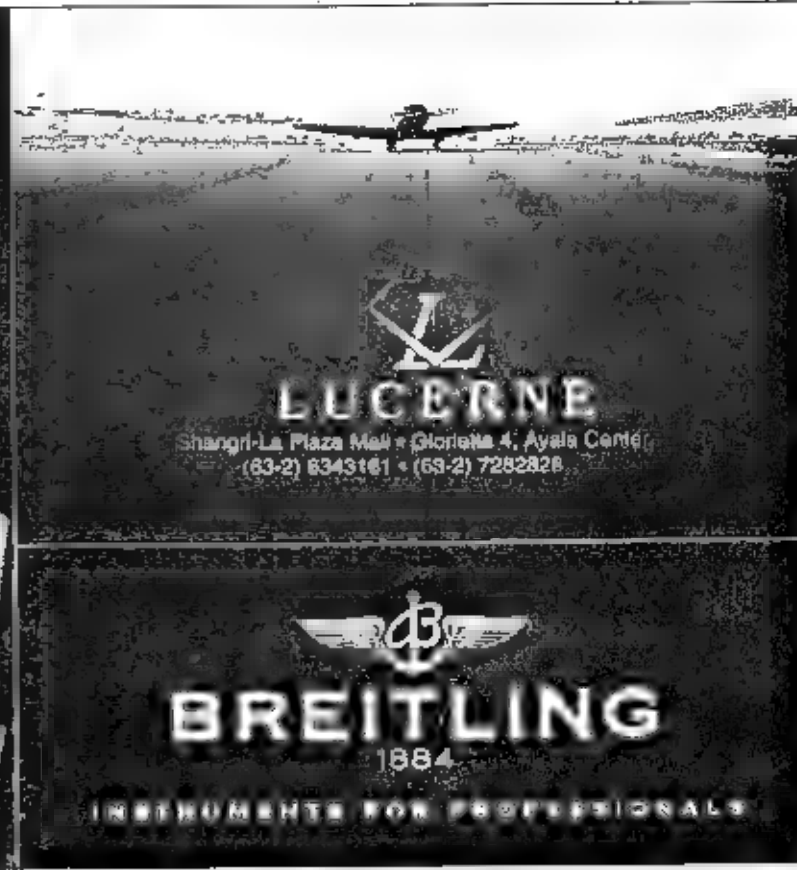
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COCKTALES, B4



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B

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2004

Norkis to produce 'recycled' vehicles

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NORKIS Group of Companies is coming out with a new light vehicle model in answer to the government's call for investments in the assembly of smaller vehicles, according to a company official.

Buen Jose Delfin, group managing head of Norkis subsidiary Porta Coell Industrial Co., said in a statement that the firm was developing the Legacy, geared for buyers who need affordable and fuel efficient vehicles.

PCIC is registered with the Board of Investments and is a participant in the government's motor vehicle development program.

Delfin explained that the Legacy would be rebuilt from slightly used vehicles with mileage ranging from 30,000 kilometers to 50,000 km using Suzuki and Daihatsu engines.

"The Legacy is a personal and business vehicle for various and private and commercial uses," he said. "It can carry a maximum load of 350 kilograms."

Norkis—which describes itself as the country's pioneer in multi-purpose, low-cost transport—has made a name for the similar but larger Multicab, which can load up to 660 kg.

The four-wheel Multicab, which Norkis promotes as an alternative to the tricycle and even the jeepney, comes in 550-cc and 660-cc variants.

Company officials attribute the firm's success with the Multicab to its "4R process," short for recycling, reengineering, reconditioning and rebuilding.

In June, Trade Secretary Cesar V Purisima urged vehicle makers to bring in to the country small cars with engine displacement of 1,000 cc or smaller to lessen the country's fuel consumption.

Cocktales

From page B3

Then, in a U-turn, Consunji last week brought back 450,000 shares at P2.14, in effect giving up whatever profit he may have taken a month before.

Heard through the grapevine

THE president of Philippine Bank of Communications, Isidro Alcantara Jr., has resigned effective at the close of business hours yesterday, following a long-simmering dispute with the bank's major shareholders on how to manage the bank and its non-performing assets portfolio.

A former PCIBanker like Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Alcantara still had two more years left in his second three-year contract with PBCOM.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

Spreads on RP ...

From page B1

which have tightened.

Philippine sovereign dollar bonds due in 2014 rose half-a-point to 98.625/99 in price terms, while Philippine '25s were

up 0.25 to 107.375/107.875

A Hong Kong dealer at a European bank said Malaysia, China, Hong Kong and Korea dollar bonds had tightened as much as five basis points.

Reuters

PRULINK

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 28, 2004	Last Week September 21, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.15332	1.14646
Managed Fund - Peso	1.23527	1.22501
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0534	1.0529

PRU LIFE UK LTD

Current Week September 28, 2004	Last Week September 21, 2004
1.15332	1.14646
1.23527	1.22501
1.0534	1.0529

Note: These disclosures of weekly life insurance contracts are not repeat facts. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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Shangri-La Hotel Makati

PROGRAMME

October 26, 2004

8:00-8:00
8:00-8:15

Registration
Opening Remarks
Mr. Jos Ortega
President, Philippine Marketing Association

AM Sessions

9:15-10:15

Module 1: Principles of Market Convergence
Session 1
Introduction to Market Convergence
(Principles and Components of Market Convergence)
Mr. Karen Y. De Asa
Faculty and Marketing Director
DLSU Graduate School of Business

10:15-11:30

Session 2
Market Convergence: Market Technology-Driven
(Roots or Origins of Convergent Markets)
Mr. Ferdinand M. De La Cruz
Head, Wireless Business Group, GLOBE Telecom

11:30-12:00 pm

Synthesize/Open Forum
Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr.
Dean, Professional Continuing Education
DLSU, College of St. Basilios

12:00 pm-1:00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

PM Sessions

1:15-2:30

Module 2: Managing in a Convergent Market
Session 3
Strategic Options in a Convergent Market
(Competing in a Convergent Market and the Financial Benefits of Succeeding in this Market)
Sec. Luis P. Laranza, Jr.
Presidential Adviser for Job Generation and
Chairman of Land Bank and Quindarcor

3:00-4:15

Session 4
Managing Convergent Markets
Marketing Management Tools engaged by successful companies in a Convergent Market
Mr. Tom C. Bengala Jr.
President, AB Communications Inc.

4:15-4:30

Synthesize/Open Forum
Ms. Luz T. Suplico
Assistant Professor, De La Salle University

October 28, 2004

AM Sessions

9:10-10:15

Module 3: Preparing or Planning for a Convergent Market
Session 5
Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?
(Predicting Industries That are Ready for Convergence)
Mr. Ramonito C. Niles, Jr.
President, AC Network Asia Pacific

10:15-11:30

Session 6
Convergent Market: Can Managers Shape It?
(Influencing the shape and trend of Market Convergence)
Mr. Amable R. Aguiluz, V
President, AMA Education System

11:30-11:45

Synthesize/Open Forum
Mr. Mylene Abino-Sazon
Chief Executive Officer, Folio Multi-Media Inc.

11:45-12:00

Closing/Prize

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Oil firms expected to hike diesel rate in 5 days

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE still smarting from the blow of having to shell out an additional 30 centavos per liter for their diesel requirements starting last weekend, motorists may again have to put up with another diesel price hike in the next five days.

With prices of diesel soaring in the world market, local oil firms would have no choice but to hike prices yet again, said Fernando Martinez, Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca) chair.

The landed cost of diesel now, Martinez said, was placed at a high P21.65 a liter. Its pump price of P21.75 a liter left oil firms and their dealers with a measly 10-centavo-a-liter margin.

"We need to give our dealers P1 and we also need to get P1," Martinez yesterday said during a telephone interview. "With landed cost at P21.65 and selling price at P21.75, there's no way we can get the needed returns (to be able to stay viable)."

According to Martinez, new oil

players using the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) prices as their benchmark, already have under-recoveries of more than P3 for diesel. Unleaded gasoline was about even.

Under-recoveries refer to increases in world oil prices that are not reflected on local pump prices.

Martinez said the increase would likely come within the Oct. 1-5 period, although market forces would still be the one to decide when prices would go up and by how much.

"The first week of October is the most likely date for diesel (price increases)," he said. "But with such huge under-recoveries, I can't anymore predict the likely (level of) increase."

For the Sept. 1-28 period, MOPS-based diesel averaged \$54.06 a barrel from only \$51.66 a barrel last month, Department of Energy data showed. It reached its peak last Monday at \$57.05 a barrel.

The depreciation of the peso also contributed in the oil firms' un-

der-recoveries. The peso slipped to an average of P56.21 to the dollar in September from the August average of P55.83 to the dollar.

To reflect the effects of soaring world diesel prices and the softening of the peso against the dollar, local oil firms, except industry

leader Petron Corp., jacked up diesel prices by 30 centavos a liter last weekend.

But yesterday, Petron an-

nounced an increase of 30 centavos a liter for diesel and kerosene as well as P1 a kilogram for cooking gas effective 12:01 a.m. today.

Petroleum taxes not anti-poor, says solon

By Michelle V. Remo

CONTRARY to popular belief, increasing taxes on petroleum products is not at all anti-poor and is, in fact, a practical revenue measure of the Arroyo administration, according to a legislator.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, a member of the government's so-called Economic Managers' Group, said increasing the excise tax rate on petroleum products was logical considering that the Philippines still had the lowest taxes on petroleum.

In a symposium entitled Measures to Address the Fiscal Crisis, Salceda cited his own study that 96 percent of Filipinos dependent on petroleum for transportation belonged to families with income of P60,000 and above. This means that the resulting increase in fare due to a hike in petroleum taxes would affect mostly middle- or high-income earners.

Similarly, Salceda said that 90 percent of consumers that would be affected by an increase in power cost due to a hike in petroleum taxes also belonged to families with income of at least P60,000 a month.

"The (measure) can be more considered as anti-middle class, not anti-poor," Salceda said.

He added that it was about time the Philippines increases its petroleum taxes and match the tax rates for petroleum in other countries.

Former National Economic and Development Authority Director General Felipe Medalla agreed with Salceda on the practicality of increasing petroleum taxes.

"Petroleum taxes are not the worst taxes in the world, especially when one uses the point of view of traffic congestion and environmental concern," Medalla said.

Currently, petroleum products have the following tax rates: lubricating oil and grease, P4.50 per kilogram, processed gas 5 centavos per liter, waxes and petrolatum, P3.50 per kilogram, denatured alcohol, 5 centavos per liter; naphtha and regular gases, P4.80 per liter; leaded premium gasoline P4.35 per liter; diesel fuel oil, P1.63 per liter and bunker fuel oil, 30 centavos per liter.

Tuna firms invest P350M to meet export demand

By Christine A. Gaylican

TWO TUNA processing companies based in General Santos City in Mindanao are set to pour in some P350 million in fresh investments to upgrade facilities to meet additional export orders abroad.

Cesar Drilon, Department of Agriculture undersecretary, yesterday said that General Tuna Corp. and Celebes Canning Corp. would separately embark on expansion plans to accommodate orders for the manufacture of tuna products.

Drilon said General Tuna Corp., a subsidiary of Century Canning Corp., would invest some P289 million to expand its canned tuna production facilities, generating some 564 new jobs in the area. General Tuna Corp. manufactures the 555 Sardines brand.

Celebes Canning, on the other hand, would sink in P58 million to increase its annual output to 15,600 metric tons from an annual capacity of 8,386 metric tons.

Drilon said General Tuna Corp. would also engage in the manufacture of folied tuna pouches.

Tuna in aluminum foil pouches has become increasingly popular in Europe because the packaging preserves the fresh taste and firm texture of the fish as compared to canned products.

Tuna is one of the country's top marine and aquaculture exports in recent years. Exports of the product in 2003 were pegged at \$157 million, marking a slight increase from the \$144 million posted in 2002, according to the DA and the Department of Trade and Industry.

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BUSINESSFriday

Putting a kick into consumer promotions

By Frances Yu
Contributor

MOST everyone loves a promotion.

For consumers, an otherwise mundane shopping trip is made more exciting by the prospect of coming home with more than what they started with—a cash prize, an appliance showcase, even a car!

For marketers, a promotion usually increases sales. It is relatively simple to execute, and results are easy to measure, unlike other types of marketing activities like advertising, for example.

However, this tool is often misused, leading to the proliferation of mediocre promotions.

But there are ways to stand out from the crowd, with a little creativity and imagination, informed by a clear strategy.

Before we discuss some of the key ingredients to a successful promotion, let's first look at the common mistakes in promotions

Promotions pitfalls

1) **Speed Bump:** Seeing promotions as merely a vehicle to get a quick volume bump.

This is not an unworthy objective in itself. However, a promotion can do so much more than just generate a short-term sales increase.

A great promotion can create brand personality, can carve out a competitive advantage, and can drive sales with results that last long after the promotional window.

2) **Sleeping Beauty:** Boring consumers with the usual promo



and the usual prizes.

Conducting the same promotion year after year can lull your customers to sleep. Inject some excitement to the same tired concept by changing elements of the concept, the prizes, the look, the feel.

3) **The Attack of the Clones:** Promo sequels, like movie sequels, are rarely as good as the original.

After the first or second time, consumers either stop paying attention or the promotion does not have the same impact.

However, every once in a while, a promotion is so compelling, unusual or remarkable

that it bears repeating. But learn to quit while you're ahead.

4) **Bargain Basement Prizes:** Trinkets and other useless premiums do not a successful promotion make. Cheap prizes such as caps, key chains, or T-shirts with a brand logo don't usually impress anyone. These usually end up being given away or discarded.

5) **Don't count on it:** If you don't measure the results of your promotion, then how will you ever know if it was successful?

Measuring the returns, both qualitative and quantitative, on your promotional investment will also allow you to learn from your mistakes or refine your success

formula.

Now that we've looked at some of the mistakes in promotions, let's now talk about some of the ingredients to a successful promotion.

Recipe for success

1) **Relevant brand linkage:** Like any marketing program, a good promotion must be anchored on a strong strategic positioning, a clearly defined target audience, and clear benefits for joining for the target audience.

Let's take the example of McDonald's 101 Dalmatians promo held a few years ago.

Capitalizing on the huge popularity of the movie, "101 Dalma-

tians," the promotion reinforced McDonald's positioning as a fun destination for children. The concept was simple, the target audience clear, and benefits for joining, tangible.

With the purchase of a happy meal, customers received Dalmatian figures in different poses, which they would otherwise have to pay for. Different figures were featured weekly. Thus, families would keep coming back to McDonald's every week to avail of their newest Dalmatian figures.

The promotion was so successful, not only with children, that I would often find the people in the office repeatedly going back to McDonald's to collect these figures.

2) **Unique premise:** Jollibee once launched a promotion called "Sikat." It featured different stars/love teams who promoted certain meal combinations that would be offered at significantly lower prices when ordered together vs. when ordered individually.

This successful promo introduced a unique premise in cross-selling of food in the fast-food industry. It gave birth to what is now a standard offer in most fast-food outlets: the value meals.

3) **Highly desirable prizes:** Highly desirable does not necessarily translate to expensive. Refer back to the McDonald's example. They do, however, have to be relevant to your target market's needs and lifestyles.

Prizes that are typically appreciated across most market segments are cash, electronic gadgets, appliances and gift certificates.

Research on promotions also

reveals that instant gratification is preferred over delayed gratification. Thus, prizes given out on the spot are often more potent motivators for purchase, as opposed to having to wait for months to find out if you won a prize or not.

4) **Participants believe they can win:** Participants must believe that they have a good chance (or at least a fair chance) of winning.

If a promo has only one big prize across hundreds of thousands of participants, chances are the impact on purchasing may not be as great. Spread out your budget to incorporate both quality of prizes as well as quantity.

To illustrate, one car is equivalent in value to 100 cellular phones, 80 computers, 50 laptops, 100 iPods, or 200 cash prizes of P5,000 each. Which do you think would produce more results?

5) **Simple and easy to join:** Make sure that your promotional concept is simple and easy to grasp. Complicated promotions lead to misunderstandings leading to customer ill will.

It also turns off potential participants who do not usually have the time or patience to study complicated mechanics.

So the next time you conceptualize a promo, try to stand out. Formulate your strategy, define your target audience, create a unique premise, put a lot of thought into the prizes, unleash your creativity and imagination.

(Reprinted from "The Secrets of Powerful Retail Marketing Seminar," Sept. 16-17, New World Hotel. Feedback at francesyu2004@yahoo.com)

Fundamentals of foundations

By Joel L. Tan-Torres
and Tony Bonilla
SGV & Co.

(First of two parts)

EVER wondered why wealthy individuals, families and even corporations set up foundations?

Why would anyone set up an institution that basically gives away money?

Some of these foundations even have global outreach programs, like the Rockefeller Foundation or the Ford Foundation, and which have outlived their founders.

Is the motivation to set up a foundation purely altruistic? Or is there also a pragmatic reason behind the lofty objectives that founders proclaim to aspire to, when they set up a foundation named after their family surname?

This article addresses these questions in two parts. The first part covers some of the principal reasons why a foundation can be an effective family wealth planning (FWP) tool.

The second, to come out next week, discusses the regulatory requirements in setting up a foundation so that it becomes such an effective tool.

Wealth planning tool

Foundations are set up for both altruistic and pragmatic reasons.

Foundations can be effective tools in preserving the societal legacy of a family and its wealth. A foundation can provide the vehicle through which family wealth surplus can be channeled to escape income and other taxes on transfers of wealth.

The accumulated wealth from the family in the foundation can then remain effectively still within the control of the family and can be directed to uses which the family deems appropriate in preserving its social status and legacy to the community.

Ordinarily, under Section 34(H)(1) of the Tax Code, the amount of charitable contributions allowed to be deductible from taxable income should not exceed 5 percent of a corporation's taxable income for the year, computed without the benefit of the charitable deduction.

'Stranger'

In the case of individuals, the ceiling is 10 percent of his or her taxable income similarly computed without benefit of the charitable deduction.

Moreover, when the donor and

beneficiary are both corporations or the donation is between an individual and a corporation, the donation is characterized as being made to a "stranger" as this is defined under Revenue Regulations No. 2 2003, and the donor is subject to a 30 percent donor's tax rate on his net gifts accumulated during one calendar year.

TAX-FILES

The regulations define a "stranger" as a person who is not a spouse, ancestor or lineal descendant, sibling (whether by whole or half-blood) or any relative by consanguinity within the fourth degree of relationship such as first degree cousins.

The regulations define "net gift" as the net economic benefit from the transfer that accrues to the donee or beneficiary. Thus, if a mortgaged property is transferred as a gift with the beneficiary assuming the mortgage liability, the net gift amount is measured by the fair market value of the property less the amount of mortgage assumed.

However, when the donation is made to a foundation that has received proper accreditation from the tax authorities and relevant government agencies, donations or bequests to the foundation become fully allowable deductions from the taxable income of the donor or the estate making the bequest.

Moreover, the donation to the accredited foundation is exempt from the donor's tax.

Family firms

Family corporations, which may otherwise be subjected to the 10 percent improperly accumulated earnings tax (IAET), may donate the excess of the corporate retained earnings of a given year to their family foundation, whenever the re-

tained earnings exceed 100 percent of the corporation's capital stock. Thus, the duly accredited family foundation serves as a tax shield for the family corporation not only from the 32 percent corporate income tax to the extent of 32 percent of the donated amount, but also from a possible 10 percent IAET liability.

Carefully planned and scheduled donations by the wealthy family's founder, to his heirs and various beneficiaries including the family foundation, can be effected during the founder's remaining lifetime, to effectively reduce the estate tax exposure of the founder's estate that attaches upon his death.

How this can be so, may be seen from the tables below. (See tables)

Thus, the transfer of an amount of over P10 million via donation to a donee who is not a stranger will incur a donor's tax liability consisting of a fixed tax of a little over P1 million and only a 15 percent tax rate on the excess of P10 million.

The same amount transferred at time of death will result in an estate tax which has a higher fixed tax component of P1.215 million, as well as a higher 20 percent tax rate on the excess of P10 million.

As said earlier, when the foundation is duly accredited in accordance with the rules and regulations of the tax authorities, the whole amount of the donation to the foundation becomes fully deductible from the donor's taxable income in the year of donation.

Just as significantly, the donation itself becomes fully exempt from the donor's tax, provided no more than 30 percent of the donation shall be spent by the foundation for administrative purposes. (To be continued.)

If the net gift amount is:

Over	But Not Over	The Tax Shall Be	Plus	Of the Excess Over
100,000	200,000	Exempt	2%	100,000
200,000	500,000	Nil	4%	200,000
500,000	1,000,000	14,000	6%	500,000
1,000,000	3,000,000	44,000	8%	1,000,000
3,000,000	5,000,000	204,000	10%	3,000,000
5,000,000	10,000,000	404,000	12%	5,000,000
10,000,000		1,004,000	15%	10,000,000

SOURCE: SECTION 34(A), TAX CODE

Whereas, if the net estate is:

Over	But Not Over	The Tax Shall Be	Plus	Of the Excess Over
200,000	500,000	Exempt	5%	200,000
500,000	2,000,000	15,000	6%	500,000
2,000,000	5,000,000	135,000	11%	2,000,000
5,000,000	10,000,000	465,000	15%	5,000,000
10,000,000	And over	1,215,000	20%	10,000,000

SOURCE: SECTION 34(A), TAX CODE

Setting attainable and realistic marketing objectives

BEFORE we start the column, congratulations are in order to the Senior MRX who added another feather in his already feathery cap. Last Saturday, the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) led by its president, Josiah Go, honored him with the association's 1st Lifetime Achievement Award in Marketing.

Last week, we discussed how to "metricate" your marketing objectives and left you with these questions:

- What is an attainable and a realistic marketing objective?
- How do we know we've set an attainable and a realistic objective before we've formulated the marketing programs necessary to attain that objective?

Books on marketing planning tell us that setting objectives is an iterative process.

You can't tell at the start of planning if your marketing objectives are attainable and realistic until you've gathered more market data to compose your marketing programs.

It's only after you've developed your marketing mix and its component product, placement, promotion and pricing programs that you can then get back to your objectives and ask: "Are the marketing mix and its component programs in my marketing plan strong and realistic enough to attain my objectives?"

It's rare to get a "yes" on the first try. It's usually a "no." And the "no" could be a "somewhat," "quite," or "definitely."

At this point, the planning iteration can take either of two options. One is to strengthen the component programs. You can take this option if you have top management support for the needed additional investment and the budget for the required program strengthening.

Throw money at your program...?

There is of course another strengthening avenue to explore. Adding more financial and other resources assumes that your developed programs have optimal or near optimal productivity. If this is not so, you can go after ways and means of raising productivity where it can be improved.

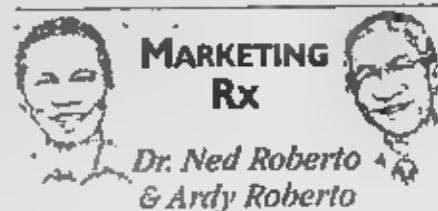
Then, you can check back if the improved productivity has made for a set of marketing programs strong and realistic enough to finally attain the objectives you've set.

...Or eat humble pie?

If the productivity improvement track also fails, then you have to turn to the other option. That's to take a humbler set of objectives. Reduce the objectives to the level that matches what your marketing programs can deliver.

This may mean killing your dream and enter the market as minor brand, instead of a major contender brand. Or if you had planned to be an aggressive category player, you might have to settle for being a low profile and "quiet" brand.

This is a critical phase in the process of setting objectives. Studies of new product failures have found that one of the major reasons why many product programs fail is precisely management's refusal to do a complete and thorough objective setting process.



Back to the objective

But let's get back to the issue. Is there a way for you to tell how attainable and realistic your marketing objectives are at the objective setting phase? That's the phase before you've developed the marketing programs required to accomplish them.

In some sense, this is what the three objectives we analyzed attempted to do. The first objective relates to the ultimate market response that the marketing plan is after. That's sales.

We said that sales is a function of the total marketing mix or its component marketing programs acting together.

The second objective talked about the component ad media program's objective of attaining brand awareness in the two market segments of consumers and business customers.

The third objective referred to another component program. That's the distribution program's objective of gaining placement in computer retailers after three months and then after six months.

The immediate and emergent suggestion seems clear. That's for your marketing plan to go on specifying the objectives for the rest of the marketing mix's component programs.

These are the programs for product positioning, advertising copy, consumer and trade promotion, and pricing.

When you've defined those objectives for those specific components, you've presumably completed the designation of the necessary targets for enabling each of your marketing mix elements and their mix to attain the objectives of sales and market share.

We said "presumably" because that's precisely what's missing in the process we've examined so far. The specification of those component objectives must clearly show that they are the required realistic targets for attaining sales and market share.

Even if we just limit ourselves to the two component objectives in our PDA example that we used last week, the objective setting formulation failed to show how the two objectives for ad media and for distribution will contribute to achieving the targeted sales and market share.

How can this contribution be shown? How can your objective setting and planning show this contributory relationship of the objectives of your component programs to the overall objective of the total marketing mix?

There are at least two ways of doing this. One is by benchmarking. The other is by the use of relational metrics in the objectives. (To be continued.)

(E-mail your questions or comments to MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com. Or text us at 0919-314-5412.)

RP workers highly adaptable, PMAP study says

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Filipino workers' ability to adapt to foreign cultures would ensure his survival in a global economy.

This was one of the conclusions of a study on the contemporary Filipino worker conducted by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines and Hewitt Inc., a US-based human relations consultancy firm.

Thus adaptability, however, was not something to cheer about, according to sociologist Randy David of the University of the Philippines.

He said during the 41st PMAP convention here that this supposed edge "distorted the Filipino's racial self-esteem."

Love for America

According to Nicasio Lim, chair of the PMAP international affairs committee, studies showed that Overseas Filipino Workers have conquered almost every outpost of the globe because of their "natural love for America."

Filipinos, he said, learned to expose themselves to different cultures because of their attachment to the country's last colonizer.

Thus, without a sturdy national identity, Filipinos were more "open to anything foreign" than other Asians, Lim said.

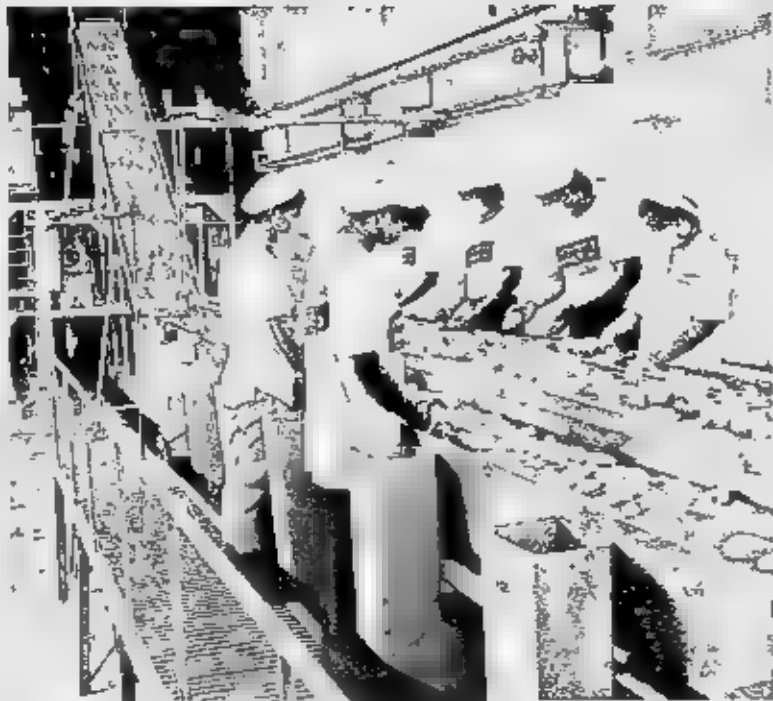
Filipinos have also mastered the art of "multi-tasking," and were preferred abroad for their "patience, perseverance and persistence," according to the PMAP study.

He added that the Filipinos' subsequent experience with sharp class distinctions and political instability also taught them to "thrive in chaos."

Wrong values

For Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the average Filipino worker was still defined by his "indolence," raising the hackles of some experts at the convention.

Fernando aired his sentiments on Thursday before convention participants, when a panel of experts decon-



FILIPINO workers are more "open to anything foreign" than other Asians.

structed the Filipino workers' advantages in a "world of work that has gone global."

The panel was composed of Couples for Christ Philippines founder Frank Padilla, and experts from PMAP, UP, Ateneo de Manila University and the Don Bosco School Apostolate.

"Kapag pinawisan na (Once a typical Filipino worker starts sweating), he feels he is abused," Fernando told PMAP participants.

Worse, he said, was the principle by which contemporary Filipinos live out their existence—sipag at tiyaga (industry and patience).

"Sipag at tiyaga? Masyado ngang matiyaga. Hindi naman. Dapat manip (Industry and patience? The Filipino is too patient. We should actually be impatient)," he said.

Thinking big

"When we are impatient, we scheme and concoct new things to make life easier and more efficient," he told a panel composed of teachers and researchers," he added.

Fernando said businesses must coax the worker to become more productive.

He said Filipinos "think small" because the Arroyo government's policy of encouraging the development of small and medium scale businesses to change the economic landscape in the provinces would end up "killing big companies."

He cited the absence of key industries such as steel to generate raw materials for other businesses.

Thus makes business ventures too expensive for cottage industry players, he said.

"We must start thinking big," he said.

PMAP said such radical policy changes were inevitable for government to correct a P200-billion deficit that has affected all levels of business.

Oscar Contreras, PMP president, said these changes must begin with the Filipino worker because global trade has changed the way the world interacts with the labor force.

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Consolation

Palm Zire 72 • iPAQ • Olympus 400 • Finepix f401 • Epson
Printer • Panasonic X500 • Panasonic X700 • Blackberry 7230
• Canon A70 DigiCam Motorola E398 • Motorola C650 • Motorola
V3 • 40GB iPod • 20GB iPod Motorola C650 • Panasonic X300
• Palm Zire 31 • Epson CX5300 Printer • Canon A70 DigiCam

PROMO MECHANICS.

- Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.
- Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.
- Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.

d) There are two ways to send entries.

- Mail to:
Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo
c/o PDI Building Don Chino Rocas Avenue,
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
- Drop in drop boxes located at the following:
Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
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Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
Greenbelt 1 Mall
Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
Alabang Town Center Mall
Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
Ayala Center Cebu Mall
Ayala Center Cebu Cinema Lobby
Netopia (all branches)
LBC (all branches)

- For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.
- Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed-in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.
- A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are: monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.

h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.

- Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
- For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897-8808 loc 237
- Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Rocas Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.
- All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
 - Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
 - Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.
 - Representative's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative).
- All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.
- All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

PROMO EXCLUSIONS:

All employees of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Harrison Communications and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.



Per DTI Permit No. 2147 Series of 2004.

IMF PREDICTION

Asian economies to post solid, slower growth

WASHINGTON—Asian economies will continue building solid but slower growth assuming there is a soft landing for China's robust economy, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

The IMF predicted there would be sustained broad-based expansion in Japan, the world's largest economy, driven by robust demand for its goods and services and steady consumer spending.

In its annual World Economic Outlook, the IMF said that in the emerging market countries of Asia, "growth has continued to exceed expectations, despite the adverse impact of higher oil prices."

"From mid-2003 to the first quarter of 2004, the regional growth rate averaged over 10 percent with particularly rapid growth in China and the Asian newly industrialized economies."

The IMF said this growth has

raised fears that China, despite some slowing in the second quarter, is at risk of overheating.

"Some other economies, including Singapore, also appear to be increasingly close to capacity," the IMF said.

The report said regional growth is projected to average 7.3 percent in 2004 or 0.1 percent higher than expected in April, moderating to 6.5 percent in 2005.

The outlook for China plays a particularly important role in the risks for the regional outlook, the IMF said.

"If China's growth were to slow less than expected," the report said, "both external and internal demand domestic demand would be stronger, although this would clearly come at the risk of a harder landing later on, with sufficient but manageable regional repercussions."

It said the repercussions would

hit Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia and other newly industrialized economies.

The IMF said monetary policies would need to be tightened—at varying paces—across the region, a process that has begun in China and more recently Thailand.

The Washington-based lending institution said Japan's growth was projected to accelerate to 4.4 percent in 2004, more than 1 percentage point higher than projected in April and to fall back to 2.3 percent—still higher than potential—during 2005.

The IMF said downside risks to this forecast include higher oil prices, a slowdown in export growth due to a hard landing than in China, higher long-term interest rates or a renewed yen appreciation.

"Looking beyond 2005," the report said, "prospects are underpinned by continued progress in reducing vulnerabilities in the



A TRADER on the dealing floor at London's International Petroleum Exchange. The price of a barrel of oil on the international markets has risen briefly past the \$50 mark, putting a damper on Asia's economic prospects.

corporate and banking sectors."

With improved economic prospects, Japanese policymakers now face the daunting task of addressing Japan's difficult fiscal

position, the IMF said.

The report said "gross public debt stood at 166 percent of GDP—the highest among advanced economies by a substantial margin."

It said authorities hope to achieve a surplus in the early 2010s by reining in spending and other measures.

AP

Oil prices slip to \$49, supply threats ease

SINGAPORE—Oil prices slid toward \$49 a barrel on Thursday after US crude stocks rose unexpectedly and rebels in Nigeria's oil-rich delta region agreed to a ceasefire with the government, reducing an imminent threat to supplies.

US light crude slipped 16 cents to \$49.35 a barrel, a little over \$1 below Tuesday's all-time peak at \$50.47.

London's Brent crude dipped 6 cents to \$46.02 a barrel.

A rise in US crude inventories and the truce in Nigeria have offered some relief to concerns over a potential severe supply disruption as the northern hemisphere heads into winter.

But analysts said the market remained nervous of other possible outages in the Middle East or Russia and those fears were keeping prices bubbling not far off record levels.

"If someone blows up a pipeline tomorrow

in Iraq we could be back above \$50 or even in the mid-\$50s," said David Thurtell, a commodities strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

The US Energy Information Administration on Wednesday reported a 3.4-million-barrel rise in US crude inventories in the week to Sept. 24—the first rise in nine weeks.

Analysts on average had expected a decline of 3.8 million barrels, as companies struggled to recover production in the Gulf of Mexico and poor weather delayed shipments into the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port following Hurricane Ivan.

But reduced refinery processing after Ivan forced gulf coast plants to temporarily close, cut into refined product supplies.

Distillate fuel stocks, including heating oil, fell 1.3 million barrels to 125.5 million, nearly 5 million barrels below this time last year,

the EIA said.

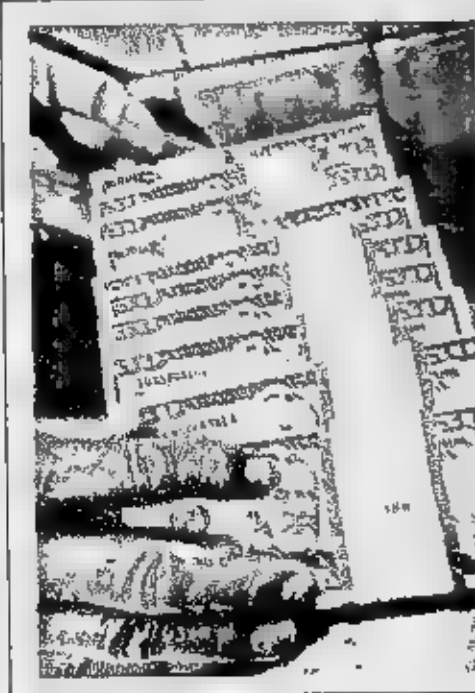
Commercial heating oil tanks are running at a deficit of 1.3 million barrels compared with a year ago. Heating oil stocks normally build at this time of year ahead of peak winter demand.

Oil prices broke above \$50 for the first time earlier this week after Nigerian rebels threatened to launch an offensive on Friday in the Niger delta, home to most of the Opec producer's output of 2.3 million barrels per day.

Global supplies are already tightly stretched as producers pump almost at full tilt to meet the fastest growth in oil demand for 24 years.

Average US prices this year of \$39 a barrel, adjusted for inflation, are near those of the Arab oil embargo in 1973-1974. But they remain much lower than the record \$80-a-barrel annual average high following the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

Reuters



US BANK notes get another splash of color. The new US\$50 note gets bundled before being shipped to Asia from the Federal Reserve Bank of Los Angeles beginning Sept. 28. As much as \$11 billion in US currency was shipped by banking institutions to Asia in 2003.

Asian shares higher on oil dip

SINGAPORE—Asian investors took advantage of lower oil prices on Thursday to buy beaten-down technology stocks across the region, snapping a nine-session losing streak by Japan's key stock index.

Electronics shares jumped following tech sector buying on Wall Street, with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. up 1.87 percent and South Korea's LG Electronics Inc. 2.35 percent higher.

Japan's Nikkei stock average ended the morning session up 1.14 percent at 10,909.55 after nine-straight sessions of losses, its longest fall in two years.

Daido Steel Co. Ltd., a manufacturer of specialty steel, rallied 3.58 percent after the company doubled its first-half profit forecast.

Nikon Corp. rose 2.76 percent after raising its net profit forecast by 50 percent following the settlement of a patent dispute.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 stock index extended its record-setting run, leaping nearly half a percent in morning trade to an all-time high of 3,673.1 before easing back a bit.

Japanese industrial output rose last month for the first time since May, but only by 0.3 percent as manufacturers moderated production to avoid a build-up in inventories as ex-

ports slow.

"It seems to reflect the recent slowdown in exports along with an adjustment in strong demand from the United States," said Azusa Kato, an economist at BNP Paribas.

"We could see output for the July-September quarter fall from April-June," Kato said.

A Reuters survey showed that Japanese factories increased production again in September, though at the slowest rate in a year as growth in new export orders faltered, particularly from China.

The MSCI index of Asian share markets outside Japan rose 0.7 percent, with the industrial and energy components up about one percent each.

Taiwan's benchmark index rose 1.24 percent, while Singapore's Straits Times Index edged up 0.55 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was 1.4 percent higher.

After three days of South Korean holidays, investors pushed Seoul's benchmark stock index up 0.28 percent.

Spot gold was steady at \$411.75 an ounce in Asian trade from \$412.65 in late New York.

The Dow Jones Industrial average closed up 0.58 percent at 10,136.24. The technology-laced Nasdaq Composite Index closed up 1.29 percent at 1,893.94.

Reuters

Gold prospects bright, exec says

DENVER—Senior executives of the world's top two gold producers disagreed on Wednesday over the state of the market for the precious metal, often seen as a safe investment haven in economic hard times.

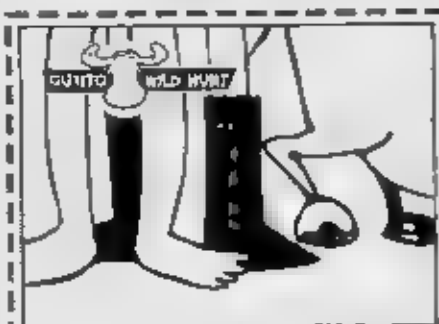
Kelvin Williams, marketing director for South Africa's AngloGold Ashanti, the second largest producer, was concerned that demand for jewelry has dropped off dramatically.

Consequently, he was guarded in his assessment of the gold price, which has risen steadily since 2001 from around \$275 an ounce to hit a 15-year high above \$430 in April this year.

In contrast, Pierre Lassonde, president of the world's No. 1 gold producer Newmont Mining Corp. was bullish, drawing similarities to the economic situation 30 years ago.

"Well, unlike my predecessor (Williams) who was down and out with gold, we are very positive. Jewelry accounts for 70-80 percent (of demand), but at the end of the day, gold is a monetary asset."

Reuters



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See posters and print ads for details.

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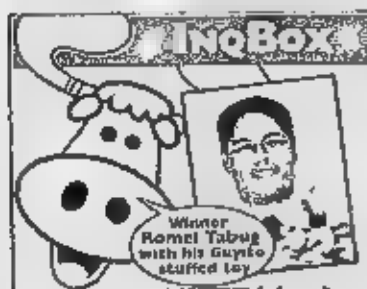
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Question of the Week

Are you in favor of giving amnesty to the Oakwood mutineers? Why or why not?

Texters has messages R print in Tuesday's Inquirer. Each receives an Inquirer T-shirt!



People, Events & Products

Sun Cellular embarks on major Luzon coverage expansion

CONSISTENT with its goal of providing enhanced network coverage to its growing number of subscribers in Luzon, Sun Cellular recently embarked on a major network expansion in the region, providing network presence in many localities in the area.

In partnership with Aircel Philippines, a global industry player in the field of telecommunications infrastructure, Sun Cellular harnessed its network facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR), Mega Manila areas, North Luzon and South Luzon.

In Metro Manila NCR, Sun Cellular strengthened its network coverage by improving cellular facilities in Manila, Makati, Quezon City, Paranaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Pasay, Valenzuela and Caloocan.

Network upgrades were also done in Mega Manila areas of San Jose Del Monte, Malolos, Sta. Maria and San Miguel in Bulacan, Batangas City, Lipa City and Lemery in Batangas; Bacoor, Dasmariñas, Tanza, Gen. Trias and Alfonso in Cavite, and San Pedro,

Sta. Rosa and Calamba in Laguna.

Meanwhile, new cell sites were installed in Calaca, San Juan, Laurel, Antagtag, Sta. Teresita and San Pascual in Batangas; Maragondon, Amadeo and Gen. E. Aguinaldo in Cavite; and Bay, Liliw, Pila and Pagsanjan in Laguna.

In North Luzon, coverage was intensified in Ilagan City in Isabela; Angeles, San Fernando City, Guagua and Urdaneta in Pampanga; and Botolan and Iba City in Zambales.

New cell sites were built in Rosales in Pangasinan; Gumaca in Quezon Province; Solana and Gattaran in Cagayan; San Isidro in Isabela; Bayombong in Nueva Viscaya; Jaen, San Leonardo and Palayan in Nueva Ecija; Samal in Bataan; and Porac, Floridablanca, San Simon and Macabebe in Pampanga.

Network reach was also expanded in South Luzon, with new cell sites in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro and Pililla in Rizal Province. Coverage was improved in Antipolo City.

Aside from improving NCR and Luzon, Sun Cellular in partnership with another telecommunications infrastructure firm Ericsson embarked on coverage expansion in key and secondary cities already covered in the Visayas and Mindanao areas. It will also add to its list of new installations the cities and municipalities that are critical in the conduct of business and commerce in the two regions.

Aside from the aggressive expansion program, Sun Cellular is also improving road coverage linking key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Digital Mobile Philippines Business Inc. (DMPI), parent company of Sun Cellular, pledges to continue strengthening its wireless business in more areas not only in Luzon but in Visayas and Mindanao as Sun Cellular nears hitting the 1-million subscriber mark before the year ends.

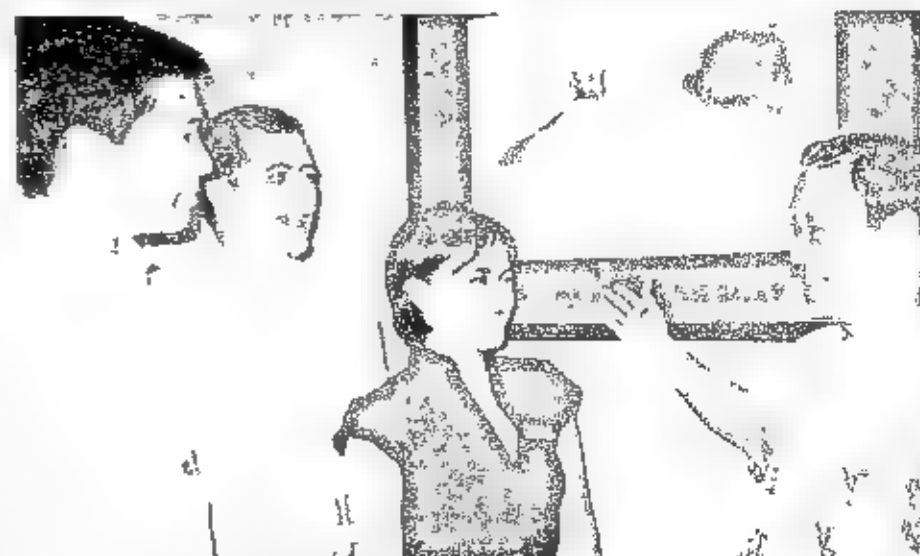
For more information, visit the Sun Cellular website at www.suncellular.com.ph or call its 24-hour hotline number at 395-8000.



JGSPC YEARLY BILLIARD BASH

JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC), makers of the Evalene brand of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) and polypropylene (PP), recently staged its annual billiard tournament the Evalene 2004 Customer 9-Ball Tournament held at Playdium Bowling and Billiards. The

one-night competition featured 32 players from different companies within the plastic manufacturing industry. Shown, from left, are JGSPC's Benjie Tan, billiard champion Richard Uy of Jason Manufacturing, first runner up Almaric Ang of Axia Plastics, and JGSPC's Po Vasay and Treana Relova.



FREE ART LESSONS FOR TOURISTS

The Herald Suites at Chino Roces Avenue in front of Makati Cinema Square is the venue of the weekly art workshop every Saturday for children (3 to 12 years old) and adults (13 to 83 years old) who wish to learn the basics of drawing and painting. Herald Suites is giving free art lessons conducted by positivism exponent and painter ER

Tagle (right) to its foreign weekend guests. For inquiries, call 759-6270 and 899-6358 or 0927-5522288. Shown is Tagle with his nude painting at Herald Suites' coffee shop while Nicamor Padilla III (left), president and owner, Art Jacob, general manager and Elaine Mercado, sales and marketing director look on.

Burson-Marsteller Australia joins forces with Nova-X Solutions in RP

Nova-X Solutions, a business intelligence provider of niche markets, brings to Manila leading crisis management expert Warren Thompson, director of Crisis Management Australia for a unique world-class workshop on crisis management on Oct. 11 and 12. To be held at the Hotel Inter Continental Manila, the two-day interactive clinic offers participants an exclusive inside look on case studies of powerhouse brand names such as Nike, Shell, Panadol, Enron, and Keppel Shipyard whose crisis scenarios

made global headlines.

Thompson has over 20 years consulting experience and is regarded as one of Asia's leading crisis preparedness and disaster recovery specialist. He develops cutting edge systems for dealing with "pre", "during" and "post" crisis ramifications and regularly tests and evaluates crisis preparedness and management systems. Thompson's prestigious portfolio of clientele include Abbott Australia, Lucent Technologies, ANZ Banking Corp, Argyle Diamonds, InterGen, Energen, and

Sanofi-Synthelabo to cite a few.

His relevant experience had him working with senior level decision makers, engineers, environmentalists, technical specialists as well as those in corporate, public and external affairs in Australia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, United States, Vietnam and Western Samoa.

To sign up for this exclusive workshop, e-mail nova.x@myjaring.net or (+603) 2381 0618.

and for reservations on further seminars, call 8920-6215817, 0917-9924858, 0915-6579813 or Edsa Shangri-La Hotel at 633-8888

PACCD 1st confab

THE PHILIPPINE Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) is holding its first annual convention from Oct. 1 to 3 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City under the theme "Global Dermatology 2004." The PACCD convention will highlight the latest developments and techniques in clinical and cosmetic dermatology, and will include workshops on Botox/Restylane and Mesotherapy/Lipodissolve on the morning of Oct. 1. Presentations will be made by a line-up

of 15 leading foreign and local dermatologists and reconstructive surgeons. PACCD is an organization of members of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) dedicated to the

mission of promoting professional knowledge and skills in dermatology. The PACCD secretariat may be reached at 714-4284 and look for Carina Montes.

Australian property seminar

AN AUSTRALIAN investment property seminar will be held on Oct. 1, Friday, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the function room of the Edsa Shangri-La in Shaw Boulevard. Look for Josephine Laing Respal, managing director of Trion Philippines. This seminar

is held in conjunction with Landmark Australia Properties are financed by the bank at 6.47 percent per annum, 30 years to pay. Buy a piece of paradise. For more inquiries



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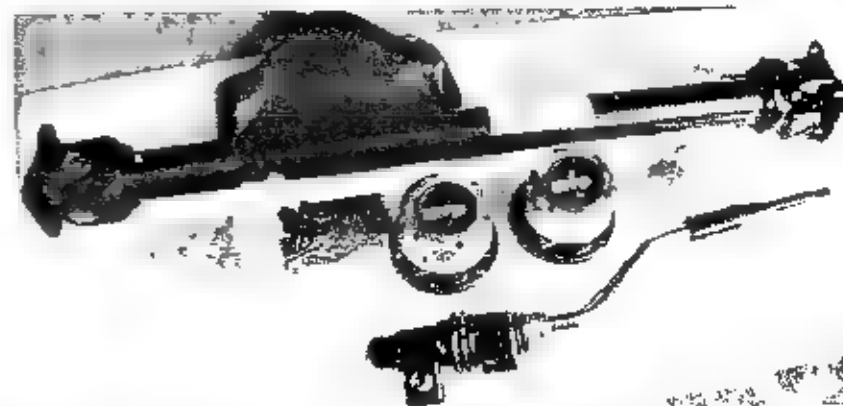
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Unleash the Beast



FOLLOWING the success of the Xenon Bulbs (HiD) lighting system, Hummer Philippines Inc. is introducing its newest product line to the local market, the HPI 4x4 Kits.

Imported from the United States, HPI 4x4 Kits provides easy conversion of your 2000 model Nissan Patrol from a 4x2 to a 4x4

sports utility. Aside from its affordability and reliability, HPI has been quality tested and is the preferred choice of 4x4 enthusiasts in the US and Japan 4x4 markets.

Hummer Philippines offers bolt-on services and after-sales maintenance of the HPI 4x4 system. For inquiries, call 713-1998 or 0917-8307832.

Unhealthy lifestyle can cause premature death

OVER the next years, unhealthy lifestyle will be one of the leading causes of premature deaths, especially among Americans, a study says.

Results of the study, which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, showed that unhealthy habits such as smoking, poor diet and physical inactivity account for 39 percent of deaths in the United States. According to James Marks, one of the researchers of the study, these practices will be the leading cause of death if people don't modify their lifestyle.

The situation in the Philippines is not different from the States. Why? Filipinos have embraced the Western culture and they just love to imitate the American lifestyle.

Dr. Joy Fontanilla, an endocrinology consultant at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, said "urbanization has led to a culture of 'overeating and underexercising' and hence, a ballooning epidemic of obesity."

"Excessive calorie intake, coupled with couch-potato lifestyle may result in obesity and diabetes. Genetic predisposition is another factor that can lead to type 2 diabetes," she said.

Diabetes is a chronic, progressive disease, associated with high levels of glucose in the bloodstream (hyperglycemia). It is a disease with serious complications such as damage to the eyes, limbs, kidney and heart.

It is indeed good news that effective treatment modalities are now available for the management of diabetes, like a combination therapy. According to Fontanilla, in the old days, management of diabetes was limited to insulin

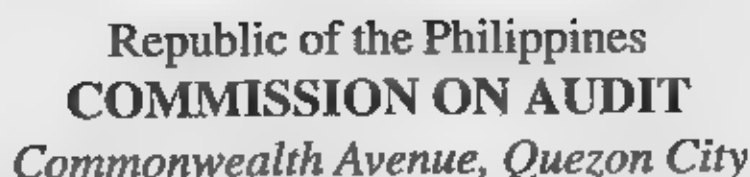
and oral medications such as the sulfonylureas. "Sulfonylureas cause your pancreas to secrete more insulin. Eventually, since diabetes is a progressive disease, the pancreas gets exhausted and can no longer produce insulin. By that time sulfonylureas would no longer be effective. You would be left with insulin as the only alternative treatment," she said.

In the last decade, more medications to combat diabetes have become available. The development of a two-in-one drug combining rosiglitazone that saves the pancreas from exhaustion and metformin which helps prevent the liver from putting out too much sugar is a boon.

"These medications can complement each other. When given together, they can produce greater reductions in blood sugar than when given alone," said Fontanilla.

The combination of rosiglitazone and metformin has been proven in several clinical trials. The Empire (Escalation of Metformin versus the Initiation of Rosiglitazone Early) study showed that more patients reached their targeted blood sugar levels with the early addition of rosiglitazone to metformin than those who are receiving the maximum dose of metformin alone.

Together with diet and exercise, combination therapy will greatly help patients in achieving their target blood sugar levels. But most importantly, combination therapy will help them to avoid the serious complications that come with the disease. Patients with type 2 diabetes should consult their doctors to learn more about new treatments that could potentially put a stop to the progression of their disease.



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*1 - Municipal Ranking
2 - National Ranking

INFORMATION

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MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC) with office at Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City, invites all interested Bidders to register and to apply for eligibility, and if found eligible, to subsequently bid for the Project, to wit:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope Works	MC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget/ Source of Funds	Project Duration
Supply of Labor and Materials for Runway Overlay Electrical Works at Mactan Cebu Intl. Airport (MCIAA) Lapu-Lapu City	Electrical and AGL Works with Civil Works	Specialties: "Medium B" for Electrical Works and Navigational Facilities (AGL, and "Medium A" for Airport Horizontal Structures	"A" General Engineering	Php 27.177 Million MCIAA Corporate Funds	120 Working Days

2. Prospective bidders who may apply for eligibility should be:

- Duly licensed Filipino citizens sole proprietorships or partnerships duly organized under the law of the Philippines and of which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines or Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines with DTI Registered Business Name and SEC Registration Certificate and Articles of Incorporation.
- Contractors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., a group of two (2) or more contractors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract provided that they shall, for purpose of bidding:
 - Comply with letter of Instructions No. 630 (LOI 630), Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%).
 - Be currently and properly licensed by the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB).
 - Comply with the provisions of Republic Act No. 4566 (RA 4566) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
- Cooperatives duly registered with CDA.
- Has valid PCAB License at least Category "A" in General Engineering with MC Category and Classification of at least Medium "B" in Electrical Works and Navigational Facilities and Medium "A" in Airport Horizontal Structures.
- Prospective bidders and/or its lead partner should have proven experience and excellent track records for the last five (5) years in Electrical and Aerial Ground Lighting Works including related civil works and shall show proof of its track records particularly Rating of Runway Centerline Lights and other Aerial Ground Lighting System in an active Runway and Taxiway (particularly Electrical and AGL works on Runway Overlay Works) with the value of prospective contractor's largest single contract completed in the Philippines must be equivalent to 50% of the approved budget of the subject project for bidding. The CPES rating and/or certificate of completion and owner's acceptance of the contract must be satisfactory which should be submitted by the prospective bidders/contractors.
- The prospective contractors shall fully submit and comply with all other requirements and criteria stated in the Application for Eligibility Forms and/or the Terms of Reference for the subject Project.
- Capable of TURN-KEY BASIS project (meaning the contract amount is payable in full 15 days after the date of completion and acceptance of the project or whatever is stipulated in the contract). No mobilization fee.
- Registered with PS-DBM in order to participate in the procurement activities of G-EPIS.

3. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance on October 5, 2004 to October 14, 2004 upon presentation of copy of the required PCAB and IAC license (Original Copy for Authentication) and submission of a letter of intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, and payment of non-refundable fee of Php500.00 at the MCIAA BAC Office. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted on or before October 15, 2004 at the address mentioned above.

4. All particulars relative to the eligibility bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (RA 4566 (Contractor's Law) and its IRR, RA 6792 (Electronic Commerce Act), and all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

5. Eligible contractors/bidders may secure the Bid Documents at the MCIAA BAC Office from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on November 3, 2004 to November 12, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 13,500.

Pre-Bid Conference : November 18, 2004 @ 9:00 AM
Bid Opening : December 2, 2004 @ 10:00 AM
Deadline : December 2, 2004 @ 9:00 AM

For more detailed information, the bidders may contact BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (032) 340-2466 local 2050/2051 or at telefax no. (032) 341-4617.

MCIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality therein, postpone any of the aforementioned scheduled BAC activities (if absolutely necessary), assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders or any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer which is most beneficial and advantageous to the Government nor does it guarantee that any awards shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARCELINO A. CORDOVA
Acting General Manager

(PDR- Oct. 1 & 8, 2004)



CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority through its BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) with office address at Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City, invites all interested Contractors holding a LARGE "B" PCAB License with at least five (5) years of relevant airport experience or equivalent capabilities in asphalt paving works or a Joint Venture of similar experience to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the RUNWAY ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECT of the MCIAA. The Approved Budget for the Contract is P= 82,848,386.34.

- Asphalt overlaying of the runway with a total length of 8,420 meters, a width of 45 meters and thickness of 5 centimeters from the original grade line.
- Paving of permanent runway markings in accordance with ICAO and FAA Standards.

- Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
- Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- Persons/entities forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., a group of two (2) or more persons/entities that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract. Provided, however, that in accordance with letter of Instructions No. 630 (LOI 630) Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%); Provided further, that the Joint Venture has been issued a Special Contractor's License from PCAB pursuant to RA 4566 as amended with the category requirement of the project to be bid; or
- Cooperatives duly registered with CDA.

To be registered, interested bidders/contractors shall submit the following eligibility documents. In case of photocopied documents, the original shall be presented for authentication.

- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration of SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
- Valid and current Mayor's permit/Municipal license;
- Taxpayer's Identification Number
- Sworn statement from the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the Consolidated Bidding Report issued by the GPPB, once released in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 65.4 of the IRR-RA 9184;
- Statement of the prospective bidder of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts for the last 5 years. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is: Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started, where applicable. The statement shall include, for each contract, the following:

- (1) the name of the contract; (2) date of award of the contract; (3) contract duration; (4) owner's name and address; (5) nature of work; (6) contractor's role (whether sole contractor, sub-contractor, or partner in a joint venture); (7) total contract value at award; (8) date of completion or estimated completion time; (9) total contract value at completion, if applicable; (10) percentages of planned and actual accomplishments, if applicable; (11) value of outstanding works, if applicable; (12) the statement shall be supported by the notices of award and/or notices-to-proceed issued by the owner; and (13) the statement shall be supported by the Contractor's Performance Evaluation System (CPES) rating sheets, and/or certificates of completion and owner's acceptance, if applicable.

- A valid LARGE "B" PCAB license and registration for Civil Works Contractor and Special Contractor's License issued by PCAB pursuant to RA 1566 as amended for Joint Venture.
- List of available prospective bidder's key personnel, such as project managers, project engineers, materials engineers and foreman that shall be used for construction contract.
- List of available equipment that the prospective bidder owns or under lease or under purchase agreements that shall be used solely for the construction contract.
- The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BAC or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities.
- The prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFC), or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
- Valid Joint Venture Agreement, in case of Joint Venture.
- Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly Authorized representatives to verify any or all of the documents submitted for the eligibility check.
- Declaration under oath from the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the eligibility requirements is an authentic and original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct.
- Certificate of Registration from Government Electronic Procurement System (GEPIS).

All interested bidders/contractors are required to submit a Letter of Intent and Eligibility Documents on or before October 5, 2004. Bid Documents will be available at the BAC Office from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on November 3, 2004 to November 12, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P= 47,000.00.

Pre-Bid Conference : November 17, 2004 @ 9:00 AM
Bid Opening : December 1, 2004 @ 10:00 AM
Deadline : December 1, 2004 @ 9:00 AM

For more detailed information, the bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (032) 340-2466 local 2050/2051 or at telefax no. (032) 341-4617. MCIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality therein, postpone any of the aforementioned scheduled BAC activities (if absolutely necessary), assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer which is most beneficial and advantageous to the Government nor does it guarantee that any awards shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARCELINO A. CORDOVA
Acting General Manager

(PDR- October 1 & 8, 2004)



PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT
263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. 433-2408, 433-5032, 433-6802
Fax No. (48) 433-5803

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) through its BAC invites all interested and legitimate suppliers, dealers and manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of assorted sizes of pipes and fittings.

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QUANTITY
uPVC pipes CL 150 mm R-R	250 mm O x 6m	107 pcs.
uPVC pipes CL 150 mm R-R	300 mm O x 6m	153 pcs.
uPVC pipes CL 150 mm R-R (color blue)	150 mm O x 6m	12 pcs.
HDPE SDR 17 (110 mm O outside dia.)	110 mm O x 2 mm	195 pcs.
HDPE SDR 17 (90 mm O outside dia.)	90 mm O x 12 m	115 pcs.

LOT 2 - FITTINGS AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE ABOVE VARIOUS TYPES OF PIPES
P= 244,179.35

Interested parties may get the bid documents at the BAC office, PPCWD at 263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan from Sept. 24, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P3,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 6, 2004, 1 p.m. at PPCWD Office.

Submission of eligibility requirements will be on or before the date of submission and opening of bids on October 18, 2004 at exactly 1:00 p.m. BOD office will close.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is P 3,304,897.00 from the City Government and PPCWD's Funds.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 Series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this bidding.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any or all formalities and accept such offer that the PPCWD BAC may consider advantageous to the District.

For more details, contact the PPCWD BAC Chairman, Engr. Vicente D. Abrea at tel no. 433-2408 or e-mail at ppccwd@ppccwd.com.

(Sgd.) ENR. VICENTE D. ABREA
Chairman

(PDR - Sept. 21 & Oct. 1, 2004)

DAYAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 082-2219400 Telefax 082-226-4885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, for the proposed Exploratory Drilling of three (3) Production Wells using Rotary Method as follows:

Item Package	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Davaoville PW, Davaoville, Dumbay	3,429,309.46
2	Reverdon PW2, Los Amigos, Tugbo	3,399,847.56
3	Panacan PW3, Panacan	2,760,411.72
	TOTAL	P 9,589,568.74

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the DCWD BAC-B c/o Office of the General Manager starting October 01, 2004 during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before Oct. 22, 2004.

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P=500.00 per package starting Nov. 05, 2004.

Pre-bidding is set on Dec. 03, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. and the Opening of Bids on Dec. 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. respectively, at the DCWD Conference Room, DCWD J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) Engr. EDMAN V. REGALADO
Chairman, Bid & Awards Committee-BAC-B

(PDR- Oct. 1 & 8, 2004)



The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

MARKETING INFORMATION OFFICER

- Qualifications:**
- Graduate of 4 year Business course, Management Information Systems or any relevant course
 - 2 years marketing experience
 - Knowledge in market research, product price, distribution and promotional strategies and its implementation
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 - Familiar with database management systems
 - Has experience in developing wireless promotions.

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 - Knows how to use office software
 - Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

- Responsibilities:**
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tero)
Corner Yaguez and Macarandang Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph



TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: September 28, 2004
Contract No.: Sp02 LTUP/Lms-0343

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Electricity Market and Transmission Development Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Luzon Transmission Line Upgrading Project 1 on Turn-key Basis. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank.

2. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), administering the bidding of the above project, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Furnishing and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials and Construction of San Manuel - Concepcion and Concepcion - Mexico 230 kV Transmission Lines on Turn-key Basis.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents starting October 4, 2004 at the following address:

Office of the Manager
Bids and Contract Management Department
National Transmission Corporation
Ground Floor, Power Center
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman,
Quezon City (Zip Code 1104)
Philippines
Telephone Nos. 981-2212, 981-2213
Telefax No. 921-2308
Email Address: rvaletandro@transco.ph

4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders or authorized representative upon submission of a letter of intent to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand (P=50,000.00) Philippine Pesos or Nine Hundred US Dollars (US\$900.00) per set.

5. A two stage two envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2) sealed envelopes: one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals which have been submitted by qualified bidders will be discussed with the bidders and bidders will be required to adjust their proposals to reflect the changes and amendments requested by the Employer to conform with the requirements and intent of the technical specifications. The bidders are further requested to submit a price proposal which contains the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical specifications. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal will be opened simultaneously in public.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five Hundred Fifteen Thousand (US\$ 515,000.00) US Dollars or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to above office address on or before January 5, 2005 at TransCo Power Training Center, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. The bid security must be included with the technical proposals.

7. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

8. The price proposals and supplementary price proposals, if provided, will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the ADB of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR S. GEONZON
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee
& Vice President, Project Management

(PDR- Oct. 1 & 8, 2004)

DAYAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 082-2219400 Telefax 082-226-4885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, for the supply and delivery of the following Pumps and:

Item Package	Description	ceiling of Bid Price
1	125Hp VTP & Motor PW-2	1,518,000.00
2	100Hp VTP & Motor PW-3	1,516,000.00
3	125Hp VTP & Motor PW-4	1,877,000.00
4	125Hp VTP & Motor PW-5	1,389,000.00
5	100Hp VTP & Motor PW-20	1,152,000.00
6	75Hp VTP & Motor PW-05-2004	1,000,000.00
7	150Hp VTP & Motor Tugbok 05	1,435,000.00
8	250Hp SP & Motor Comunal	1,535,000.00
	TOTAL	P 11,422,000.00

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the Purchasing Division Office starting Oct. 1, 2004 during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before Oct. 22, 2004.

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 per package starting Nov. 05, 2004.

Pre-bidding is set on Dec. 03, 2004 at 3:00 pm and the Opening of Bids on Dec. 13, 2004 at 9:00 am at the DCWD Regional Training Center, Madapo Hills, Davao City.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
AGM for Administration
Chairman, Bid & Canvass Committee

(PDR- Oct. 1 & 8, 2004)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Justice
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Magallanes Drive, Intramuros
1002 Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid for sanitation, maintenance and janitorial work and services to be rendered at the premises of (1) the BI Main Office, Intramuros, Manila, (2) the BI Detention Center, Bacutan, Metro Manila and at (3) BI-PEZA Building, Pasay City.

Prospective bidders may obtain eligibility requirements at the BAC Secretariat, General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Bureau of Immigration Main Office, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila from 19 to 22 October 2004 during office hours. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents shall be on 28 October 2004. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the eligibility screening. Only eligible bidders shall be issued the approved scope of work and other bidding documents and requirements. Submission and opening of bids shall be announced on a later date.

The Bureau of Immigration reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The Bureau of Immigration likewise assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

21 September 2004

(Sgd.) TEODORO B. DELARMENTE
Associate Commissioner
Chairman, BAC (General)

(PDR- Oct. 1 & 8, 2004)

OBITUARIES

SOCORRO DUQUE

Peacefully joined our Lord on Sept. 29, 2004
at the age of 80.

His loving husband Francisco Duque, children Oscar & Tita, Lucy & Celo, Angeles & Mary, Teresa, Nancy & Jesem, Mary Anne, Mercedes, grandchildren, nephews & nieces request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at #7 I, Fernando St., Malanday, Valenzuela City.

Interment will be on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2004 at the Valenzuela Memorial Park at 3 p.m.

God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts ..

On the Occasion of the
NINTH Death Anniversary of

DON EUGENIO S. BALTAO

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered tomorrow,
02 October 2004 at the following churches:

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL - New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 A.M. & 6 P.M.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH - Lantana St., Cubao, Q.C.	7:00 A.M. & 6 P.M.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE - Greenhills, Mandaluyong	6:15 A.M. & 6 P.M.
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH - Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 A.M. & 6 P.M.
OUR LADY OF THE AIRWAYS CHAPEL - Nisay Aquino Ave. Parañaque	6:00 A.M. & 6 P.M.
MONASTERIO DE SANTA CLARA - Katipunan Road, Quezon City	7:00 A.M. & 6 P.M.
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH - Aurora Blvd., Quezon City	12:00 P.M.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO - Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 A.M. & 6 P.M.
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE CATHEDRAL - Cabanatuan City	6:00 A.M.
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART - Nueon Ecija Doctors Hospital, Cab. City	10:00 A.M.
CHAPEL OF MARIA ASSUMPTA SEMINARY - Cabanatuan City	6:30 A.M.
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE - CRYPTA - Cabanatuan City	6:30 A.M.
PARISH OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP - Mabini Homesite, Cab. City	5:30 P.M.
CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF NAZARETH - Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City	6:30 A.M.
ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH - Subic, Zambales	6:00 A.M.
ST. FERDINAND CATHEDRAL - Lucena City	6:00 A.M.
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART - Pines City Doctors Hosp., Baguio City (Oct. 1)	11:30 A.M.
PINES CITY COLLEGES STUDENT CENTER - Magsaysay Ave., Baguio (Oct. 1)	8:00 A.M.
BAGUIO CATHEDRAL, Immaculate Heart of Mary - Baguio City	6:30 A.M.
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY CHAPEL - Baguio City	12:00 P.M.
ST. VINCENT PARISH CHURCH - Neguillian Road, Baguio City	6:30 A.M.
DON BOSCO CHURCH - Baguio City	6:30 A.M.
ADORATION CONVENT CHAPEL - Baguio City	6:30 A.M.
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE, Antipolo City	6:00 A.M. & 6 P.M.
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH - Antipolo Hills Subd., Urgy, San Luis, Antipolo	6:00 A.M.

ELSA BAGAPORO ASANZA

(Iriga City)

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace & goodness of the Lord on
the 25th day of Sept. 2004 at the age of 61.

She is survived by her bereaved husband GAUDENCIO ASANZA Jr, children Katherine & Alexander, grandchildren Vincent, Joshua & Justin, sisters Lillian & Jose Andalis (Hayward, California), Evelyn & (t) Philip Quizon (Fremont, California) brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces, cousins request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in San Miguel, Iriga City. Interment will be on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at the Iriga Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 PM mass at the St. Anthony de Padua Parish Church in Iriga City.

MELANIO P. PEREZ

a.k.a. DY BOC SAM

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 29, 2004 at the age of 75.

His loving wife Tintin; children Tita & Walter Villanueva, Gloria & Joseph Go, Nick & Christie, Oscar & Meda, Sofia & Willie Po; grandchildren Derrick, Daphne, Denise, Sherwin, Abigail, Jill Anslee, Jemilee, Geraldyn, Gayle, Hans Joseph, Mariane Lourdes, Mark Phillip, Marilene Angelina, Rhys Lennard and Kyle Henley; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, October 4, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at Chinese Cemetery

ADELARDO "Adel" C. ABLES

of Daet, Camarines Sur and Cainta, Rizal

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 29, 2004 at the age of 54.

He is survived by his wife FE; children AURORA, ALFRED, ANGELI and ACE; brother AMABLE and sister ALICIA.

Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Inc., Marcos Highway, Antipolo City

Cremation will take place on Sunday, 3rd of October 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park Crematory, Marikina City after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Marian Memorial Chapels, Inc.



An
obituary
with a picture can
be a fitting tribute
to your departed
loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1 Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT
CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank
payments

In loving Memory
on the 25th Death Anniversary of

DIONISIO A. DIAZ

of Lubao, Pampanga

Who died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 1, 1979

The family and relatives request the pious
readers to remember Diosdado in their prayers.
Masses Offered Oct. 1, 2004

1. St. Augustine Parish - 8:00 a.m.
Lubao, Pampanga
2. Sta. Rita de Casim - 8:00 a.m.
Sta. Rita, Pampanga
3. St. Lucy Parish - 5:30 a.m.
Sasmuan, Pampanga
4. Holy Cross Parish - 8:00 a.m.
Sta. Cruz, Lubao, Pamp.
5. La Consolacion Parish - 8:00 p.m.
San Isidro, Guagua, Pamp.
6. Immaculate Conception Parish - 6:30 a.m.
Guagua, Pampanga
7. Metropolitan Cathedral - 7:45 a.m.
City of San Fdo., Pamp.
8. Our Lady of Sorrows Parish - 6:00 a.m.
Dolores, City of San Fdo., Pamp.
9. San Agustin Parish - 8:30 a.m.
San Agustin, City of San Fdo. Pamp.
10. Sacred Heart Parish - 5:30 p.m.
Tetabastagan, City of San Fdo., Pamp.
11. Holy Rosary Parish - 5:30 p.m.
Angeles City, Pamp.
12. San Antonio de Padua Parish - 8:00 a.m.
Parañaque, City

In Memory of a loving brother

MARIA FONTILLAS FRANCISCO

on her 2nd Death Anniversary, September 30, 2003
of Castilleja, Zambales & Tuzantia, Canada

BERNARDINA VALES FONTILLAS

on her 2nd Death Anniversary, October 1, 2002
of Hls, Cam. Sur & Village East, Canada, Hls/L
Their children Ricardo & Ma. Conchita Fontillas-
Palmique & family request relatives and friends to
pray for their eternal repose.

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever..." Psalm 23:6

Col. DANIEL CUTARAN LANTION

(Ret.) 0-2402 PC-(GSC)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 29, 2004 at the age of 89.

He shall be missed by his bereaved wife RIZALINA; children DANIEL JR (t), DRA. FRANCES LINA and EDILBERTO ANG, GENERAL TOM and REAH, JUDGE JANE and COMMISSIONER RALPH, grandchildren Maridin, Marilyn, Martin, Moonie, Camille, Mell, Nikki, Ryan, Elina Andrea, Norlene Jane and Danielle Anne; great grandchildren, relatives and friends. They request the pious readers for their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at 12 noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His
only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have everlasting life."

— John 3:16

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in the bag!



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BUSINESS

Private sector still spared from fiscal crisis, UA&P says

By Doris C. Dumilao

YOUR PROBLEM: HEAVY HAIR LOSS



SVENSON'S HAIR LOSS Rx:

Total Hair Revitalization Program

Your hairline is rising. Your thick hair is thinning out. If you don't want to end up bald, what are you going to do about it? Take control of your heavy hair loss now at Svenson International. Our Total Hair Revitalization Program is a comprehensive system of treatments that will eliminate the main cause of receding and thinning hair. It can also hasten the re-growth process by increasing the amount of cells for longer, stronger-growing hair.

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THE GOVERNMENT might be in a fiscal crisis, but the private sector has been spared so far, the chief economist of the University of Asia and the Pacific said yesterday.

UA&P School of Economics dean Emilio Antonio Jr., however, said, that the crisis' ill effects would eventually "contaminate" the private sector unless concrete steps were taken to solve it.

In the meantime, the private sector still has excess funds, unlike the government.

"As such, the private sector's savings rate has dramatically increased, and that's why the Treasury bond auctions (by the government) are always oversubscribed," Antonio said.

Antonio said one benefit from the fear of a fiscal crisis was that the country's politicians would learn "to be more efficient in the use of people's money."

He said the first casualty of a fiscal crisis was infrastructure spending, as expenses for the sector could be deferred.

"There's nothing you can do about the salaries of teachers and other public sector employees," he said.

He said the government was short of funds largely due to its failure to collect the same proportion of taxes from the nation's income.

"But the proportion of income that remains in private sector's pockets has increased," he said.

Antonio said the government was definitely in a crisis because:

- It was spending more than it earned;

- It financed the deficit by borrowing locally or abroad;

- Servicing past debts has constrained expenditures on regular government operations, and,

- Foreign lenders have smelled blood and are starting to jack up their lending rates.

He said the country should heed lessons from the past whereby the abundance of funds did not necessarily help the economy as a whole.

"The '70s and early '80s saw dominance of government. The aftermath resulted in carcasses of white elephants but there was not much improvement in public service," Antonio said.

"Should we force them (politicians) to make do with less?" he said.

Antonio said the fiscal resolution strategy drawn by the Arroyo administration—which included new measures to improve tax collection and cut expenditures—appeared doable.

The passage of the indexation of excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products alone, he said, would already send a strong signal to investors about the government's resolve to raise revenues.

Asked whether he approved of new taxes to boost collections, he said: "In a crisis situation you have to make use of everything, but the long-term solution would really be to improve tax administration."

But Antonio said the country was not yet in a crisis that could cause a slump in the nation's income.

On the contrary, he said the country was still enjoying a healthy foreign reserves position as well as income-spending balance.



₱ 5 Billion Ayala Bonds

Issuer	Ayala Corporation
Rate	12.877% p.a.
Minimum Investment	₱ 50,000.00
Offer Period:	September 29 to Oct 4, 2004
Issue Date:	Oct. 7, 2004
Maturity Date:	Oct. 8, 2009

Joint Issue Managers:

- BDO Capital and Investment Corporation
- BPI Capital Corporation
- First Metro Investment Corporation
- ING Bank
- Land Bank of the Philippines
- PCI Capital Corporation
- Standard Chartered Bank

For inquiries, call BDO Capital Tel 638 5298 • BPI Capital 845 5695 / 818 9585 / 845 5674 / 845 6697 • First Metro Investment Corp. 840 5751 to 56 / 840 5711 to 18 (Makati Office) / 241 4301 to 07 (Boracay) • ING Bank 840 8910 / 840 8714 • Land Bank of the Phils. 405 7228 • PCI Capital 840 7900 / 878 4541 / 878 4547 • Standard Chartered Bank 878 2971 / 878 2947

Citystate keen on buying bank

PUBLICLY listed Citystate Savings Bank Inc. has expressed interest in taking over First Savings Bank, which was recently shut down by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In a letter to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. executive vice president Rosalinda Casiguran dated Sept. 19, 2004, Citystate EVP Rey Delfin requested for the list of requirements so that the bank could bid for FSB's assets.

"In line with the expansion program of Citystate Savings Bank, we would like to inform you of our intention to join in the rehabilitation of the recently closed FSB," Delfin said.

The letter of intent was disclosed by Citystate to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Citystate began its operations as a thrift bank in 1997.

It was incorporated by a group of Filipino entrepreneurs led by Antonio Cabangon Chua and Alfonso Siy.

FSB was shuttered due to financial difficulties, which were traced to the termination of its account by its clearing bank. Doris C. Dumilao

SHOES galore
/D2

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY LITERATURE • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Knockoffs
are not
welcome
in the
expanded
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Vuitton
address
in
Shanghai



Fashion high in Shanghai

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOUIS VUITTON

DEYING China's image as the global market's knock-off capital, Louis Vuitton last week unveiled its expanded flagship store in the nation's retail mecca, Shanghai.

The event, which culminated in a glitzy party attended by LV bigwigs and China's LV-decked who's who, underscored the 150-

year-old label's determination to strengthen its foothold on China's burgeoning luxury-brand market.

The two-level, 1,350-sq-m boutique at the prestigious Plaza 66 Shopping Center is said to be the brand's biggest store in the Asia-Pacific region outside of Japan, and the biggest luxury-brand store in the whole of China. It is also LV's first store in China to house its full line—from leather goods to jewelry to ready-to-wear.

"We're proud that Shanghai can host all of FASHION, CHINA."

IN THIS ISSUE



SPRING surprises
from Lacoste and
Kenneth Cole
/C8



THE PRIME
of Inno
Sotto
/D1



ROMANCING pearls
/E2



SPARKLING smiles,
mesmerizing makeup
/F1



1 massage received

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- Oct 2-3 Robinsons Place, Bacolod
- Oct 6 IS Atium
- Oct 9-10 SM Iloilo
- Oct 14-15 Gaisano Country Mall
- Oct 16-17 SM Cebu
- Oct 21-22 SM CDO
- Oct 23-24 Gaisano CDO

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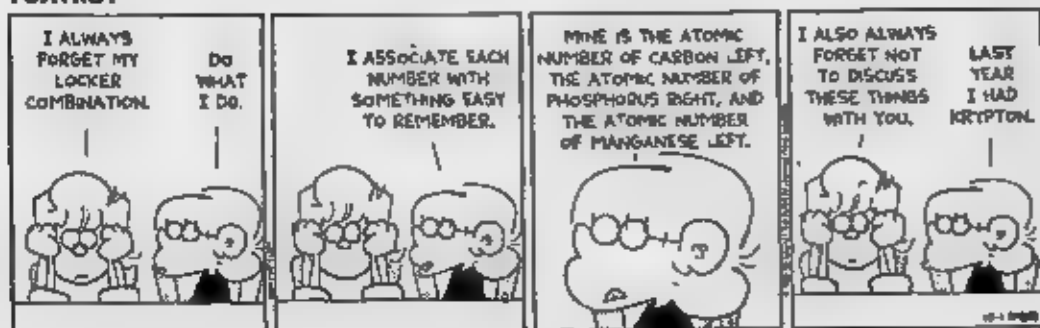
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FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY ESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY PM. JUNIOR

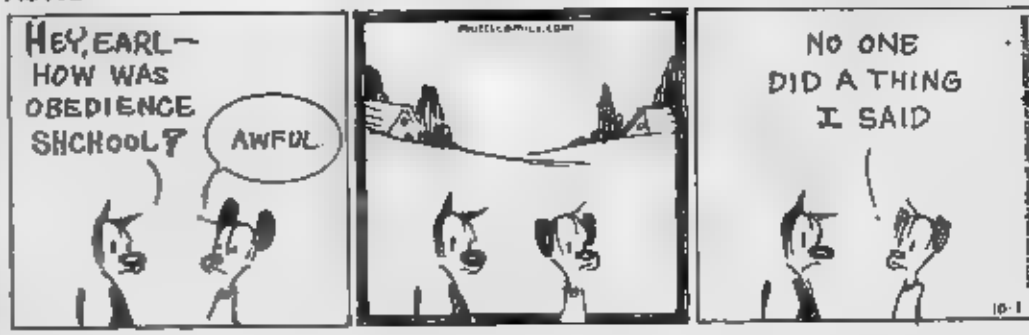


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBBO

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: People respect you. You're a unique individual. You have a natural dignity about you. You also have a far-reaching, visionary point of view about life. Because of this, you're successful. Many of you go to the top of your field. This year could be one of the most fortunate, powerful years of your life.
Birthdate of: Julie Andrews, actress; Jimmy Carter, philanthropist/39th US president; Mark McGwire, baseball player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think twice before spending money today. Things are mildly confusing, and you're tempted to go for luxurious items! But can you afford them?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Try not to worry about doubts and a lack of confidence. This is just static in the air. It'll be gone in a day. In the meantime, try to think positive thoughts.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with parents and authority figures are vague and misleading. In fact, you might feel the need to hide something from others in order to escape their disapproval. (That's OK. We all do it.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with bosses are out in left field today. Your conversations seem to be like two ships passing in the night. Make no assumptions. Double-check whatever anybody says.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A friend might deceive you today. This doesn't have to happen, but it could. Therefore, if you think something fishy is going on, it is! (Trust your gut feeling.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Certain matters are unclear to you at work today. Don't just assume you know what somebody wants. Make sure. This is the classic day for self-deception and confusion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a poor day to share things with others. You might give away the farm. On the other hand, you might feel you can't trust anybody. This passes almost immediately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Family discussions are not simple today. People have trouble expressing themselves. It's also easy to over-do drugs and alcohol.

SAGITARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might drift off to Never-Never Land. Daydreaming, fuzzy thinking and being absentminded easily take place now. It's not a good day to tackle important detail work!

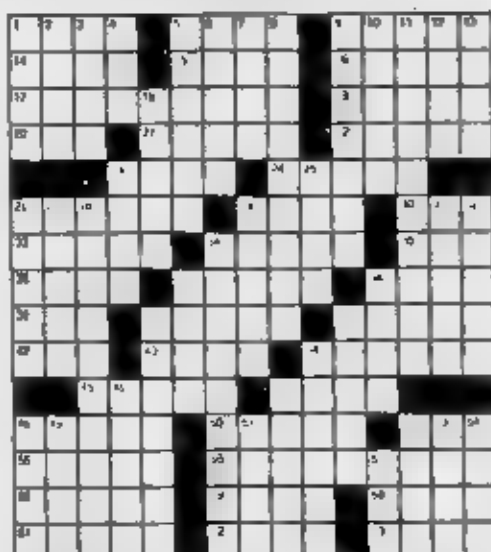
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're tempted to spend too much money having fun today. You're also tempted to spend money on a romantic situation. Although these are pleasant activities, don't lose your shirt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're not sure which way to jump today. You feel the need to help someone at home or to please a parent. (If you're not sure what to do, do nothing.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your imagination is in overdrive today. You can't help daydreaming a lot. That's OK. Einstein gave enormous credit to his imagination. (He was a Pisces.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1 W. alliance
5 Radar spot
9 Part of a negotiation
14 Online auction site
15 Talk wildly
16 Choreographer
17 Popular
19 Spring flower
20 Pampering letters
21 Way too heavy
22 Bay
23 Nights before
24 Sandbank
25 Like Zorro
26 "South Park" kid
30 Grounded bird
33 Galled
34 Blueprint
35 Indian bread
36 Skidded
37 Seethes
38 Elevate
39 Awa-Jatta
40 Tries out
41 Montana city
42 High-fashion monogram
43 Serpentine warning
44 One in a talk
45 Grease of "Bonanza"
47 Harpor helpers
48 French brother
50 Buk's nickname
52 Drinking cup
55 Embankment
56 Art of the inanimate
58 Shag or Tatum
59 Diminutive ending
60 Skin-cream ingredient
61 Olympic medals
62 Hair colorings
63 One Trumpet



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

10/1/04

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- 3 Body powder
4 Popeye's Olive
5 Bought off
6 Bodies of water
7 Currier and
8 Bases for staves
9 Choices
10 Animal life
11 Not abridged
12 Nobelist Wiesel
13 Absorbed
16 Held dear
23 Barely managed to get by
25 Geyser or Holbein
26 Hazy
27 City on the Rhine
28 Degree of proficiency
29 Narrow openings
31 Photo flash
32 Al or Bobby of auto racing
34 Owned
37 Hippie event
38 Crude oil
40 Theme of this puzzle
41 Rod with a hole
44 Military home
45 Nymph of mythology
47 Hackneyed
48 Apply the whip
49 Vegas rival
51 ABA member
52 Distance measure
53 E.T. vehicles
54 Turn right
57 Research center

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



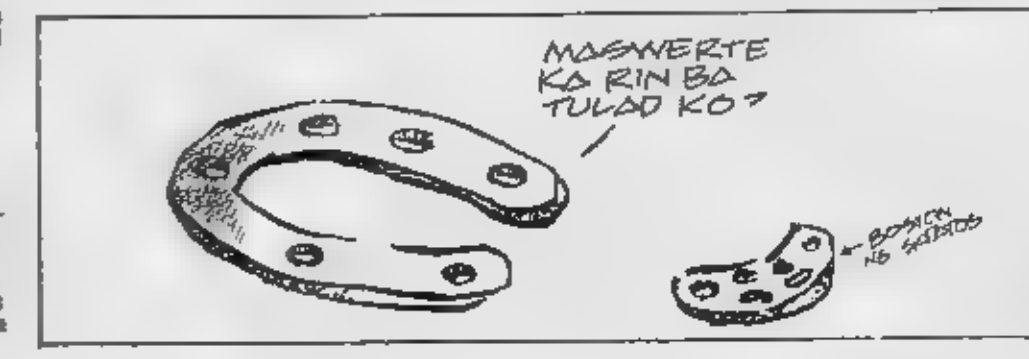
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Oktoberfest kicks off today

THE SAN Miguel Beer Oktoberfest kicks off today at the Metrowalk on Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. The event offers food, music, fun and games and a P1-million raffle prize.

CONCERT. Rondalla music opens the October presentations of "Paco Park Presents," with the Cainta Los Trobadores Rondalla under the music direction of Lino Mangandit tonight at 8.

GOINGS ON

WORKSHOP. Businessmaker Academy holds a workshop on embellishing bags with beads. Call 6874445, 6874645 or 6873416.

SEMINAR. Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center sets a new series of "Easy English" seminars every Saturday, starting tomorrow, 2-5 p.m. Call 8426685 or 8093050.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park presents, "Ang Manunugtog Kawayan" and "O' Unforgettable Gems" on Oct. 3, 5 p.m.

SALE. Consumers can avail of zero-percent interest deals at the following AVSurlar branches. Filinvest Festival Mall, until Oct. 4, on Samsung and Philips. Abnaso Square, Baguio, until Nov. 16, on Sharp and Samsung. Robinsons Metro East, until Oct. 8, on Panasonic, Sharp, Samsung, Grate, NAD, Definitive Technology and Magic Sing. Call 8431541 to 48.

WALKATHON. "Lakad Mo, Panarap Ko" walkathon will be held on Oct. 10, starting at People Power Monument on Edsa and ends at Ultra in Pasig. Call 9103181 to 86.

CONCERT. A "Slamming Rock Concert Party" will be held Oct. 16, 8 p.m., at Cavite Coliseum, Mabay II, Bacoor, Cavite. It will feature Grayhoundz, Aggressive Dog Attack, Starscream,

Whorelocks, Stagnant and Sin.

BAZAAR. The United Nations Development Fund for Women bazaar is slated on Oct. 16, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at Makati Sports Club, L.P. Leviste Street corner Gallardo Street, Salcedo Village, Makati.

The Assumption Bazaar will be held Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City. The bazaar is for the benefit of the Assumption Mission Schools.

COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a series of basic and advanced photo courses starting Nov. 7. Call 5435341 or 8137420.

WORKSHOP. Sogetsu Ikebana, known for its very modern arrangements, will once again showcase its flair for the avant garde in its annual show to be held Oct. 1-3, G/F, Gloria 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. With the theme "Fancy Flowers... Or Leaves?" the show is under the auspices of the Sogetsu Manila Potential Branch led by officers Margot Perez, director, Vangie Cheng, deputy director, Enry Dimayuga, secretary, Nancy Uy, treasurer, Elsa Regala and Alko Taylor, honorary advisers.

KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL
Speaks More Than Words Here



PETER Garricho Jr., vice chair and CEO of First Generation Holdings Corp., recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Rina Lopez Bautista, president and executive director of Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc., to provide 27 public elementary and secondary schools in six municipalities of Batangas access to the Knowledge Channel, the first and only all-educational curriculum-based cable TV channel in the country.

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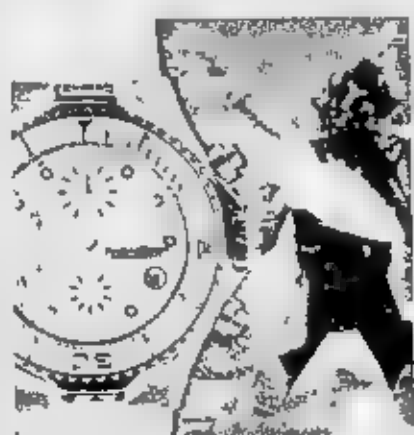
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The visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and are subject to change without prior notice.

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TMC Sun

Sophisticated timepieces

TECHNOMARINE has a new outlet at SM Megamall.

With interiors inspired by the First TechnoMarine Boutique in Paris, France, the new boutique creates a global universe centered on fun, fashion and sophistication.

The store carries the best-selling TM Sport, TMCX, TLGN, TMY, TMAX, Raft and Squal watches, plus pieces from its TechnoMarine Precious Collection.

TechnoMarine was founded in December 1997 by Franck Dubarry, a French sportsman with a taste for the good life, a love for the sea and a great appreciation for beautiful designs. The watch has since evolved into a breakthrough lifestyle brand.

The TechnoMarine store is at the 3/L SM Megamall, Building A.



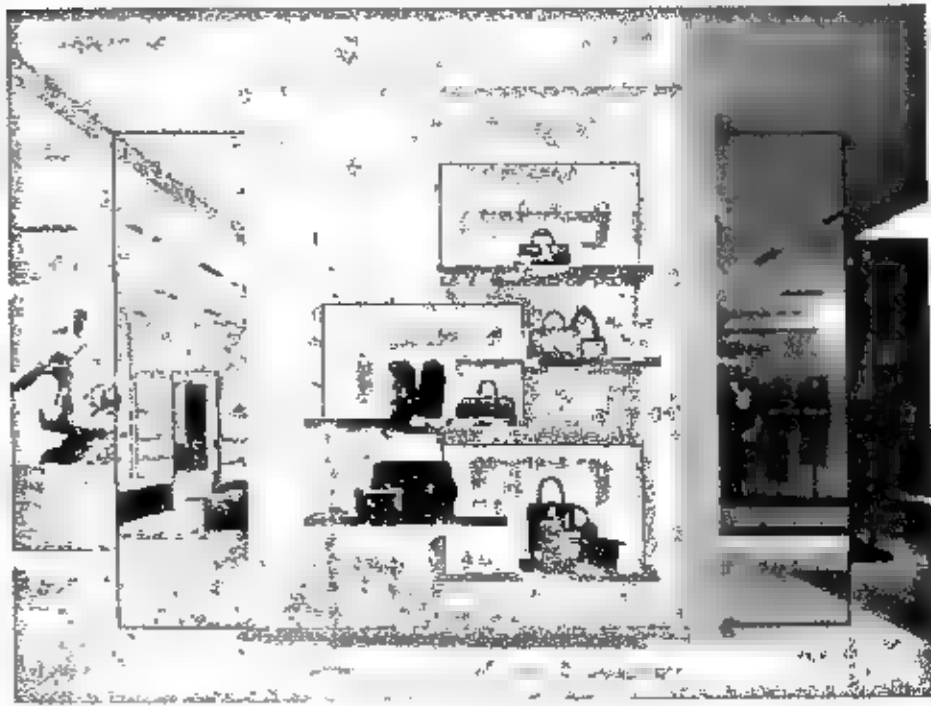
RED Square



THE TECHNOMARINE Precious Collection exudes breakthrough elegance.



THE WOMEN'S footwear collection on the second level is heaven for the well-heeled. Another section on the ground floor is also devoted to shoes.



THIS display panel with floor-to-ceiling mirrors on both sides greets clients at the top of the stairs on the second level. A right turn leads to the women's wear and the VIP room.



THE "FLOATING" steamer. Behind it is the floor-to-ceiling containing the watch and jewelry.



MODELS don the Marc Jacobs-designed ready-to-wear collection for Louis Vuitton Fall-Winter 2004/05. At right, a closer look at the shoes and bags.



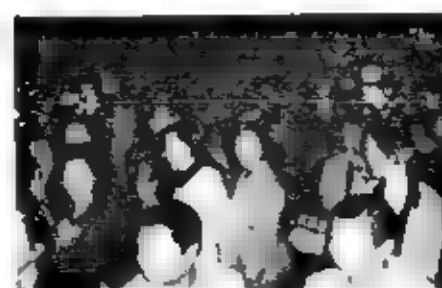
AS if being an LV client is not privilege enough, the Shanghai boutique features a VIP salon for its best patrons—an exclusive space where they can shop in complete privacy.



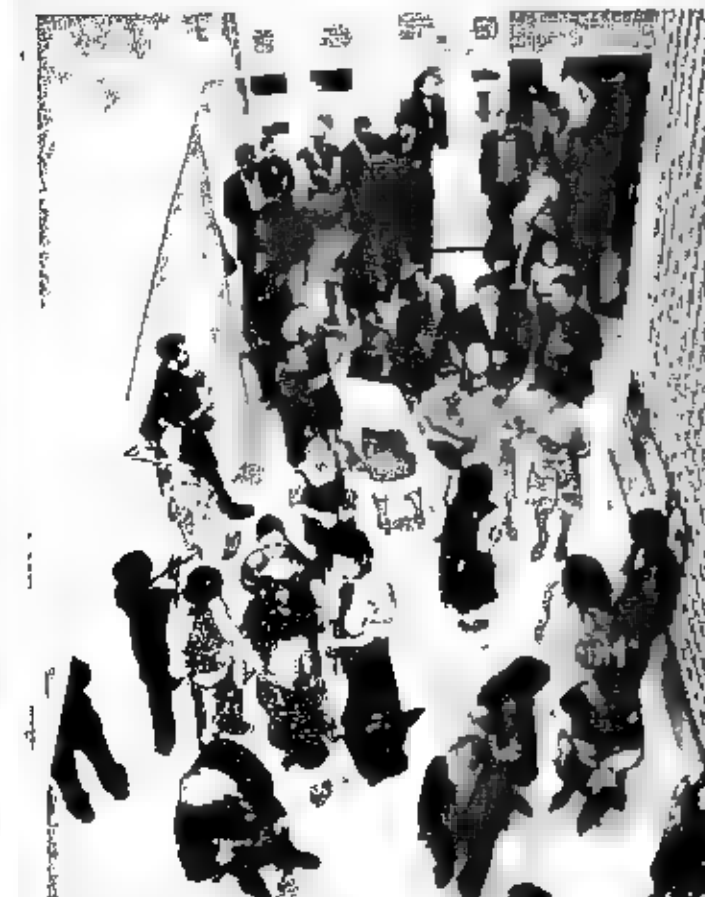
THE LIGHTED facade features the hologram-like double-panel Damier glass.



VEUVE Clicquot flows at the LV festivities held at the China-Russia Friendship Hall (below), where journalists from Asia, Europe and America mingle with the likes of international actress Maggie Cheung (above, with Carcelle), and groove to the music of British pop star Gareth Gates.



THE BAMBOO lends a distinct Asian touch to the women's apparel display.



CHINESE luminaries and LV guests at the store's illumination ceremony.

Fashion high in Shanghai

From page C1

our collections," said Yves Carcelle, CEO and chair of Louis Vuitton. "This is also symbolic as [our reopening] coincided with the F1."

The Formula One Shanghai Grand Prix was being held on the same weekend, triggering the influx of tourists and racing enthusiasts into the city.

Carcelle also expressed delight that Shanghai "is recovering its place." China's robust economy has in fact resulted in the birth of the new mega-rich who have a newfound taste for fancy labels.

"There are new rich everywhere," Christopher Zanardi-Landi, LV's country manager for China, told the INQUIRER when asked whether LV minded its popularity among the new rich. "That they are said to buy more is a cliché. We are happy that many Chinese are overtly recognizing the discreet elegance of LV."

The success of mega-brands among the nouveau riche may be attributed to the perceived, if stereotypical, appetite for objects that aren't only pricey, but also look it. LV and similar high-end brands, which have their logos at the core of their designs, have made them a hit in this market segment.

On Nanjing West Road, where the LV store is located, swanky shops of top labels dotted the avenue, their screaming logos each vying for the moneyed's attention.

Not elitist

"We're not elitists," Zanardi-Landi stressed. "We have [thousands of] items in the store if they find something they like, we don't mind."

While the Chinese are not necessarily LV's biggest buyers in Asia (the Japanese still are), Zanardi-Landi acknowledged that China "is very important."

Carcelle said that luxury brands became popular first among the Chinese men, "because it was proof of their success." The increase in sales for the women's segment came 10 years later. "But the men's market remains important."

"The women's market is strong[er] worldwide," added Zanardi-Landi. He said the trend in China is different, where men share an equal segment of the sales pie. He added the merchandise brought in for the Shanghai market "are based on what we see the Chinese are buying in other LV stores" overseas.

Zanardi-Landi also conveyed LV's gratitude to the Chinese government's cooperation to protect intellectual property. "There has been a tremendous improvement in the last two years," he said.

The Shanghai sidewalks, however, told a different story. Peddlers continued to openly sell cheap knockoffs.

On a tour of the city's popular Xiangyang Fashion Market, this writer spotted, curiously, only a handful of faux Louis Vuitton purses in the massive tourist bazaar, buried beneath the tide of counterfeit Gucci, Coach, Dior.

The surge of fake goods doesn't seem to affect the LV business, in China or elsewhere, if the continued increase of its outlets in China is anything to go by.

A few months ago, the malletier opened its doors in Xi'an, summing up LV's stores across China to 11, located in eight cities from Beijing to Xiamen.

The French company opened its first store in China in 1992 at Beijing's Palace Hotel. The Plaza 66 boutique in Shanghai, which reopened last week after 10 months of renovation, was first unveiled in 2001.

Futuristic

The sleek Plaza 66 boutique pays homage to the LV tradition. But it has a modern, futuristic look. The facade is a 10-m-high, double-panel Damier glass that, when illuminated, creates



FRANÇOIS Delage, Louis Vuitton's EVP for Asia-Pacific; Yves Carcelle, chair and CEO; Serge Bruntschwig, managing director; and Christopher Zanardi-Landi, country manager for China.

a dramatic hologram effect.

"We wanted to mix history and our latest creations," Carcelle explained of the gilt-lined steamer trunks "floating" at the main entrance. The concept was first started in New York, he added.

In their effort to "give each region a personal touch"—the apple theme in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris—the Shanghai store employs an Asian element, the bamboo, in its interiors.

LV also introduced the 18-k gold "Good Luck" charm resembling the first trunks it produced in 1854, to be sold exclusively in Shanghai.

An atrium that connects the two levels houses its watch and jewelry collection. The floor-to-ceiling double-layer enclosure is made of 16,000 pieces of "meta skin," forming a continuous chain of LV's signature Etoile monogram blocks.

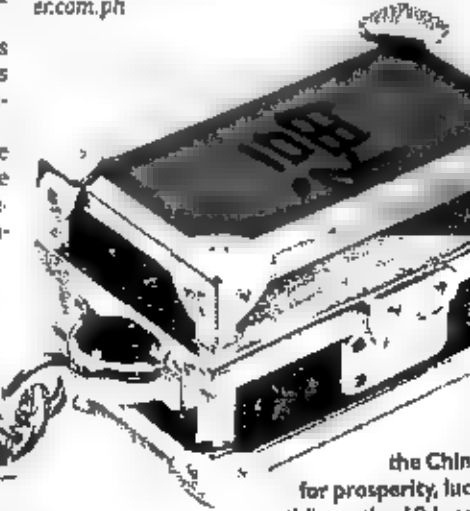
The Etoile motif is continued on the relief plaster walls. For this store, a layer is added to the leather-goods display shelves to add height and lend it a more dramatic effect.

Decidedly the most distinguishing aspect of the boutique is its 100-sq-m VIP room intended for LV's top clients. Located on the second level, the area gives the store's favored shoppers a space to peruse the latest collections in utmost privacy. "These are clients who usually come in with their personal shoppers," Carcelle noted.

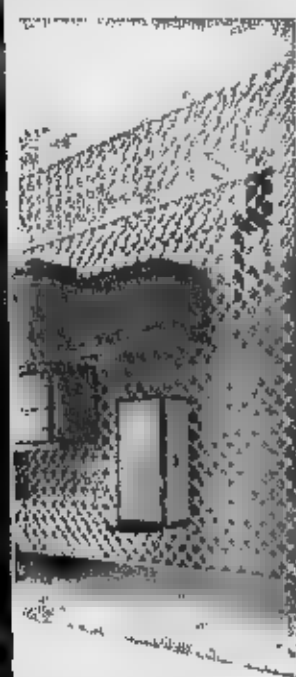
The walls have enlarged watercolor illustrations of the cityscape by Beijing-based artist Sun Chuan. A plasma-screen TV is installed on one wall where the client can view the latest show collections. A small enclosure within the salon is provided for tired VIP clients if they wish to get a quick massage.

Indeed, Paris has arrived in the "Paris of the East."

E-mail the author at cmora@inquirer.com.ph



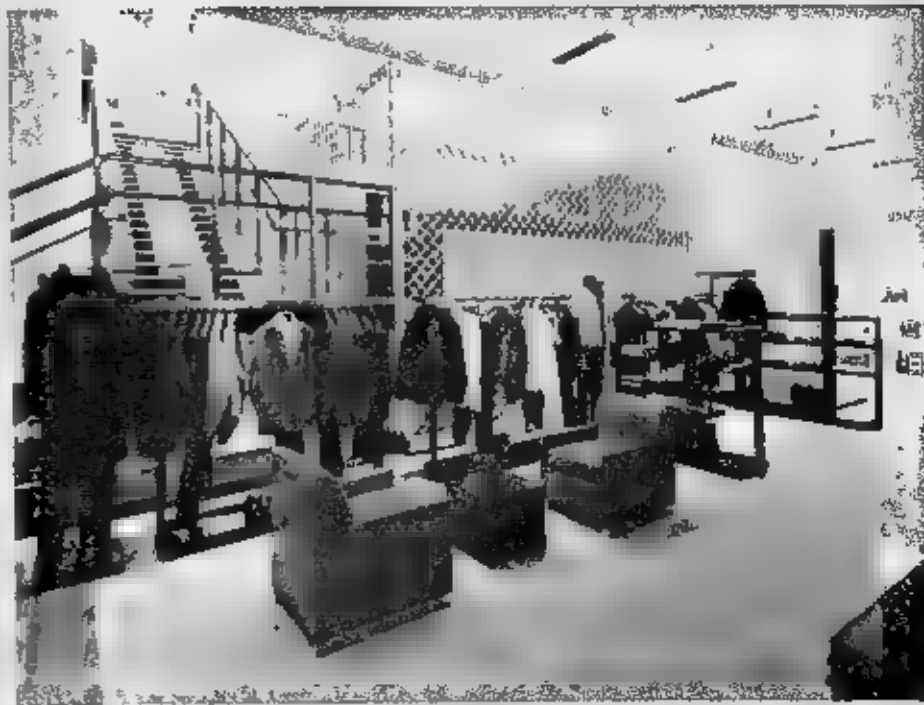
BEARING the Chinese symbol for prosperity, luck and good tidings, this 18-k gold charm is available only in LV Shanghai.



trucks at the main entrance.
ing Etolle-monogram atrium
velly collection.



SUBTLE details, like the Etolle relief walls, add to the understated elegance of the spacious shop. The floors are heated in winter.



CHINESE gents are equally important to the LV business. As proof, the brand devotes a third of the ground floor to men's apparel and footwear.

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In today's fast-paced living, you can have a hard time keeping up with everything around you, especially if you have your own pad, condo or house. Because you're very busy doing all sorts of things, it would be very hard for you to find the time to take care of your home, to prepare the right meals, to wash your clothes or to even organize stuff in your kitchen. Luckily for you, there are American Home® appliances.

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American Home® appliances are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by AHAM Corporation, a company that has been providing Filipinos with top of the line appliances for almost a decade. Formerly known as CMTIC International Marketing Corporation, the company aims to upgrade the quality of life of Filipinos by giving them a full range of home appliances at reasonable cost and value for money with the highest standard of quality.

AHAM Corporation is committed to provide Filipinos with world-class, innovative home appliances and total customer satisfaction. This philosophy drives them to bring to the country great appliances like American Home® appliances.

American Home® Appliances will not only help you breeze through modern living and add function and elegance into your home. They will also help simplify your life appliances. Get American Home® appliances and live the Dream now! American Home® appliances are available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

ADVT

*With American Home Appliances,
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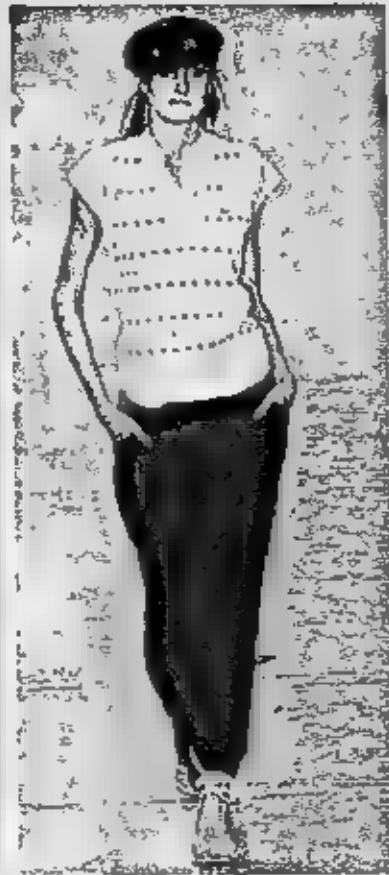


With American Home appliances, housekeeping has never been so easy!
Not only are they convenient, they also add style and comfort to everyday living.
Having them makes tending the house fun... even to a man.

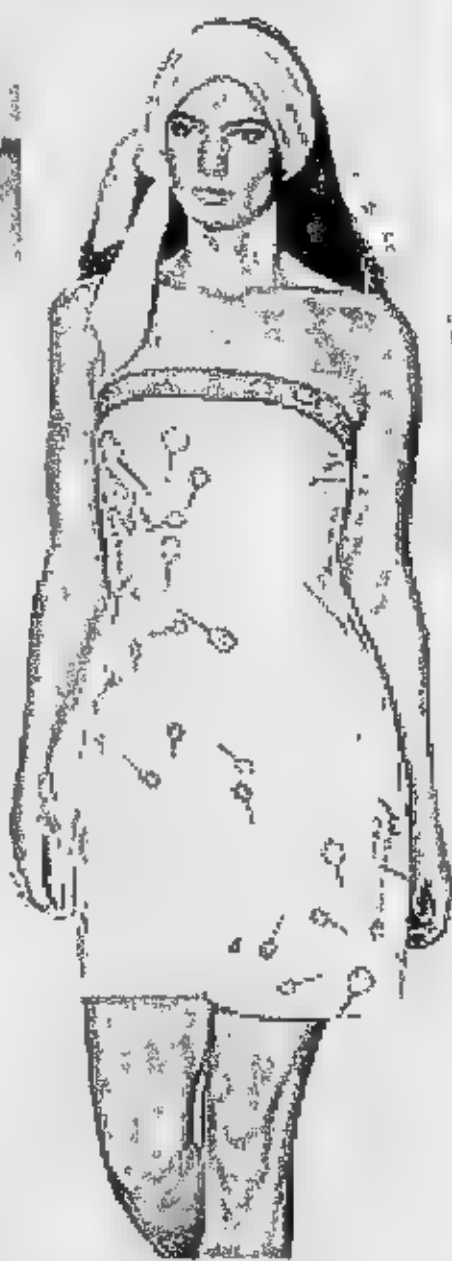


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LACOSTE goes for a playful "preppy look" with stripes of all sizes, polka dots and checkers in a refreshing palette of colors.



Preppy but playful, sweet but sleek

From page C8

Meanwhile, Kenneth Cole kept things short (as in the dresses and jackets) and sweet (with clean cuts and minimal details) yet still sleek and stylish with dramatic monochrome pieces perfect for the office or a cruise getaway.

The designer mostly stuck to basics like white, beige and dark blue but dabbled into a bit of color like orange and teal, and yellow suit that is sure to bring sunshine wherever it goes.

The season's shoes are strappy criss-cross sandals and pointy, high-heeled boots that run up to the knee.

For men: Loafers, but try them in white for that fresh, clean look. Oh, and this time around, it's the men who carry the clutch purses.

What every parent should know about "stunted growth"

Growth stunting: It's a lot more common than you think.

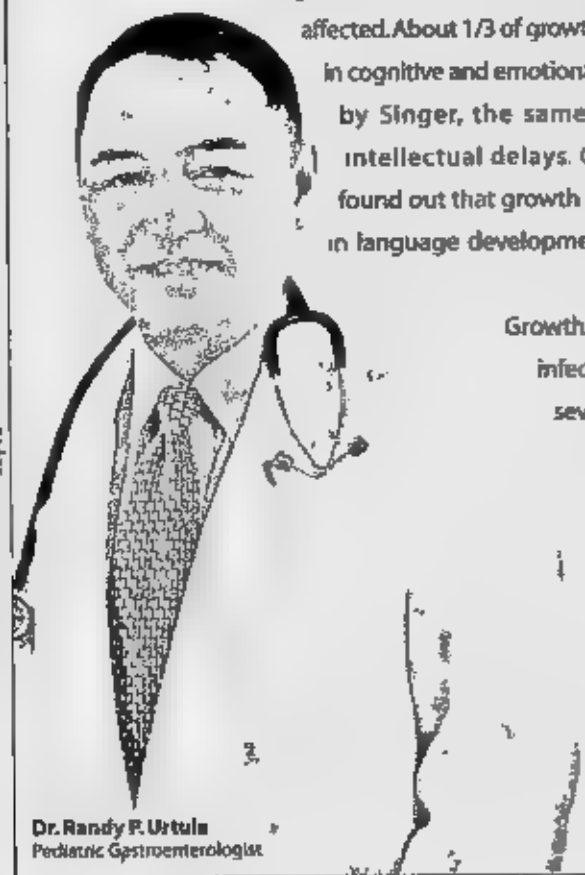
Recent studies show that growth stunting is alarmingly high in the Philippines. Using the International Reference Standards (IRS) Growth charts among Filipino children, it was found out that among school aged children (6 to 10 years old) 30 out of 100 are underweight and stunted! For pre-school children (0-5 years old) the rate of incidence even increased to 32 out of 100!

What is growth stunting?

Growth stunting is a condition when your child is not growing as fast as he should be. Growth stunting occurs when your child is not getting enough nutrients from food. This may be due to his poor eating habits, unbalanced diet, severe stress or loss of appetite because of sickness. If your child is often ill, suffering from chronic infections or any congenital condition that may prevent the body from properly absorbing nutrients from food, he may also experience growth stunting.

When growth stunting happens in the first 2 years of life, brain growth is affected. About 1/3 of growth stunted babies have demonstrated delays in cognitive and emotional development. In a 3-year follow-up study by Singer, the same children still manifested persistent intellectual delays. Oates and Yu in a 13-year follow up study found out that growth stunted children were significantly behind in language development, reading skills and verbal intelligence.

Growth stunting can also lead to illnesses, chronic infections and even long standing disabilities in severe cases.



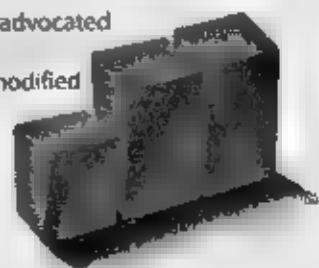
Dr. Randy P. Urtula
Pediatric Gastroenterologist

How do you know if your child's growth is stunted?

There are different ways to check if your child is experiencing stunted growth. See if your child looks frail, skinny and too small compared to other children of the same age. You should also watch out for intermittent vomiting, spitting-up, diarrhea and frequent infections. The best way to detect early growth stunting is to monitor closely your child's growth in terms of weight and height. If you detect any weight loss or any decrease in how fast your child gains in weight and height, consult your physician immediately to find out the cause as soon as possible. This will help limit complications and long-lasting disabilities.

What can be done to manage growth stunting?

To prevent growth stunting, encourage your child to eat a healthy and balanced diet. If you think your child's growth is already stunted, consult your pediatrician in no time. He may recommend a nutritional therapy for faster catch-up growth. A high-caloric and adequate protein feeding has been advocated for many years. Proper feeding can be achieved using modified formulas or commercially-available high-calorie supplements containing 30 cal/ oz. Aside from calories and protein, vitamins and minerals, including vitamin A, folic acid, iron and zinc should also be given.



References: International Reference Standards (IRS) Growth Tables and Charts. Adopted for use in the Philippines. Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Dept. of Science and Technology, Metro Manila, Phils. 2001. Committee On Nutrition. American Academy of Pediatrics. Pediatric Nutrition Handbook, Ronald E. Kleinman (Ed), 4th ed. Illinois, 1998. Philippine Nutrition Facts and Figures. Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Dept. of Science and Technology, Metro Manila, Phils. April 2001. Behrman, R., Kliegman, R., Jenson, H., Textbook of Pediatrics, W.B. Saunders Co. Philadelphia, 17th ed. 004. Maggion A, Lipschitz F. Nutritional Management of failure to thrive. Pediatr Clin N Am, 1995, 42: 791-810.

To know more about growth stunting, call 1-800-1088-83937 for a free nutrition counselling.



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Riezi at week 1
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Height: 3 ft. 10 in.

Riezi at week 2
Weight: 27 kgs.
Height: 4 ft.

There was a time when Riezi looked smaller than her cousins of the same age. We also observed that she was less active than her playmates. When we consulted our pediatrician she said that Riezi was experiencing "stunted growth" So she recommended a balanced diet, vitamin and mineral supplements and most importantly, Pediasure..

After only two weeks, Riezi was able to catch up on growth. She had dramatic gains in weight and height. She became more active and less sickly. Her appetite also improved. She liked the taste of Pediasure so much that she kept asking for more. Since then, we made sure that we give her nothing else but Pediasure. It's worth it.

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Or call 1-800-1088-83937 for a free nutrition counselling.

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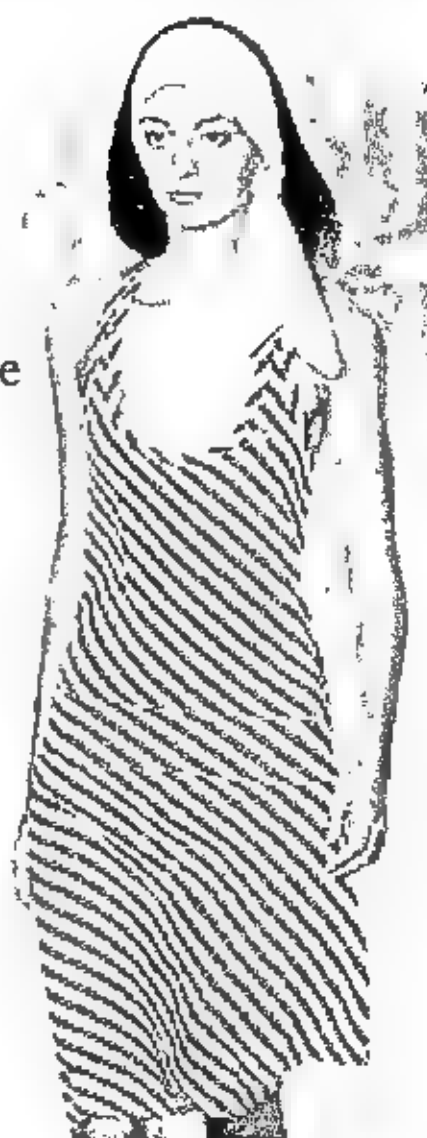
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Preppy
but playful,
sweet
but sleek

By Beta Fortnoso
Contributor

NEW YORK—Lacoste has a few surprises up its sleeve for next year's spring.

Its solid-color shirts may have made it famous, but prints took center stage on the runway at New York Fashion Week.

From stripes of all sizes going in all directions to polka dots and checkers, mixed with a refreshing palette of colors, Lacoste has final-

ly made the "preppy look" more playful and less boring.

Even the men aren't spared from the fun prints and bright hues, and were covered in them from head to toe.

The summer dress for 2005 is a sleeveless shirt dress with a necktie that comes in every color of the rainbow. Sexy cleavage-baring halter dresses with mesmerizing diagonals, stripes were eye-catching, but the star of the show was the teen's rackets print seen on a little tube dress and a pleated skirt.

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**KENNETH Cole**

LIFESTYLE

Watch Inno go

Sotto makes an interesting study in career strategy



IT'S the month of Philippine fashion titans.

Inno Sotto and Pitoy Moreno will stage their fashion collections within weeks of each other. It's not a gladiator fight, but what makes this October phenomenon interesting is that Pitoy and Inno have something in common, apart from their stellar status in Philippine fashion. Aside from being artists, both are strategists.

Pitoy and Luno must have the most strategic minds in

LIFE- STYLED



Thelma Sioson
San Juan

Philippine fashion. Their careers are masterpieces of strategy. Proof of that is now, even when the fashion design (as distinguished from retail) scene is quite sluggish, these two are moving heaven and earth to stage the most significant collection of the year, and are, as usual, on high gear, if not overdrive.

All these decades, these two have charted the course of their careers with passion, savvy—and guts. No accidents. Always, they've been in control, designing their career growth and managing their professional and social network.

And—they never show wear and tear. Certainly not Pirox, who is, uh, way past midlife.

"You know it's so touching, *nakakatawa*, to see him on Friday in church, at the Sacred Heart Mass," Inno talks of Pitoy, "going from one pew to another, passing the bag, doing the collection. He does this every week." Inno marvels at Pitoy's zest for living.

In fact, however, we also are amazed by Inno's zest for living—and competing. Given his reign in Philippine fashion today, he really doesn't need a show, so why is he still having one?

"Because it stimulates me, it excites me," he says. I get him: Inno comes from a generation of designers that's incurably passionate and competitive of their work. Whether it's a 100-piece collection or one dress, Inno and his breed go at it as if it were the ultimate

WATCH: 03

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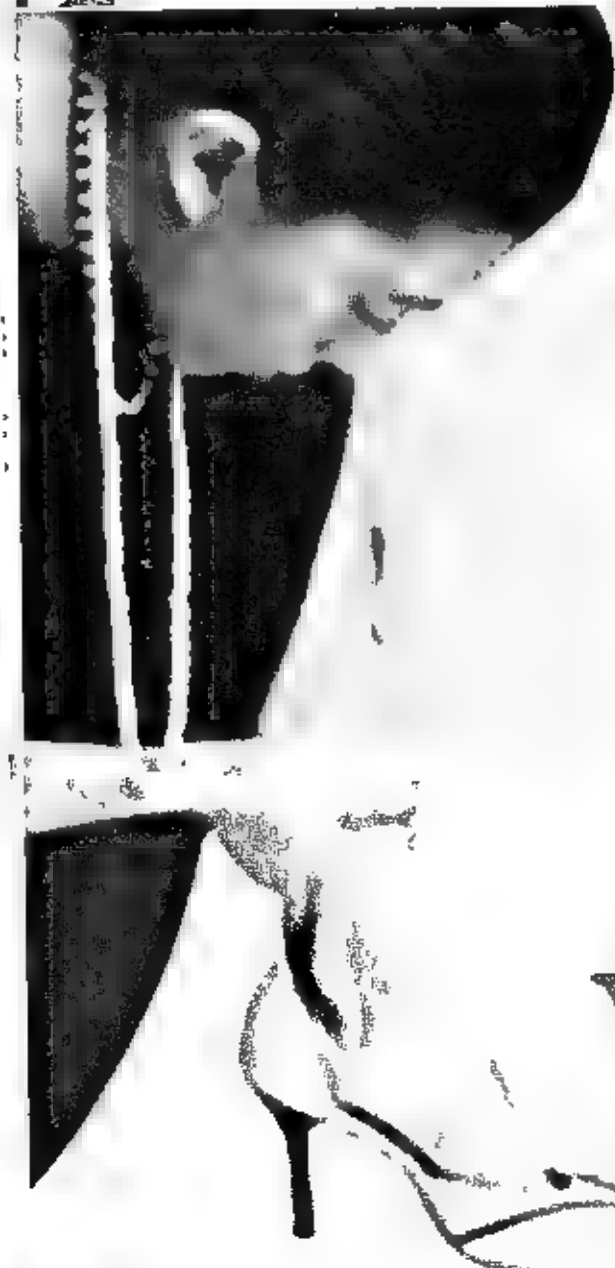
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TANGO stirs thoughts of a very tall lady in a black dress, waiting for her partner on the dance floor.



SPLAT was inspired by an abstract piece.



THE NEW ORIENT was inspired by a Sunday afternoon in the park, following a Saturday evening spent at the ballet.

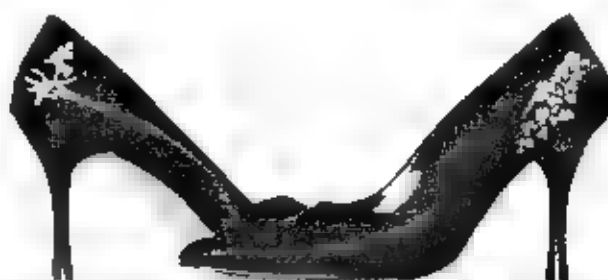
Sole! Vision



MOD SQUAD was inspired by a photograph of a nude model carrying an oversized zipper on her shoulders.



ARTIST EDITION



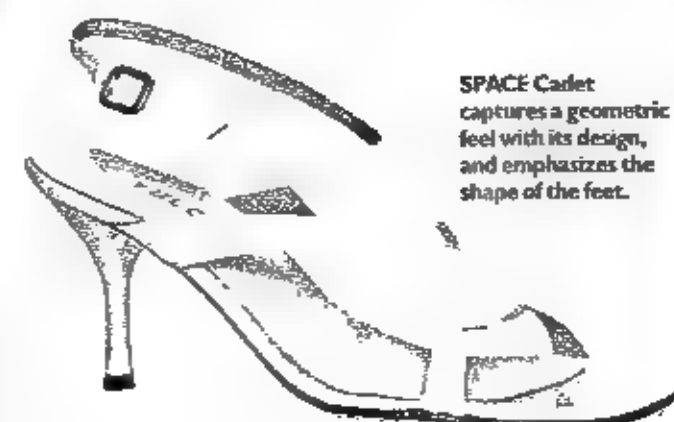
DIJON was inspired by a bottle of mustard.



TEE-OFF simply was inspired by the letter "T."



SPACE CADET captures a geometric feel with its design, and emphasizes the shape of the feet.



Splat



The New Orient

EVEN during her teens in her native Bacolod, Kristel Yulo has always wanted to be a designer. But being the dutiful daughter that she is, she first finished her Marketing and International Studies degree at De La Salle University, before taking up Managing the Arts Program at the Asian Institute of Management.

Listening to the passionate advocacy on the revival of the local shoe industry by Tessie Endriga whom she once chanced upon while visiting at the Riverbanks Mall in Marikina, fueled her passion to pursue design.

Soon after, she started her first venture—the production of a women's line of shoes, Yulo Manila, with sister Jaraiza taking care of the administration.

Kristel says that when planning for a new collection, she consciously avoids fashion shows to keep herself from being influenced by established designers. Instead, she seeks other art forms for inspiration, like photography.

For example, one shoe design named Mod Squad was inspired by a photograph of a nude body with a giant zipper on the shoulders. Another design, The Splat, was inspired by an abstract pattern.

At times, the inspiration can be an object, once even a letter of the alphabet—the design she now calls Tee-off.

And these designs are produced in very limited numbers, making for a sense of exclusivity. Clients can be sure they are wearing a pair of shoes not manufactured for half of Manila's population.

But what really defines her shoes is the fit. She gives particular attention to the shoes' foundation. Its shape and its construction, she guarantees comfort with each pair.

Indeed, what good is a pair of shoes with beautiful adornments—buckles, bows, ribbons or rhinestones—if you can't walk with

them for long periods of time? And, according to Yulo, you can run around Ayala even with her three-inch heeled shoes, without pain!

"My dream is to constantly grow as an artist," says Kristel. "As a designer, my goal is to become skilled in couture, to be able to offer a full service or a more complete product line to a client" (made to order and retail). She also wishes that Yulo Manila "will grow as a lifestyle label here and abroad, to own a distinct look that is easily recognizable."

And this is a dream Yulo is bent on realizing, with her scheduled departure soon for Florence and New York to pursue her specialization in couture.

It is Kristel Yulo's singular vision to put up a total fashion house. She seems to have taken the right first step

SHOE designer Kristel Yulo



Watch Inno go

From page D1

test of their genius. With them, everything about their profession is to die for.

This time he's going beyond clothes and into scents. For years now, without fanfare, Inno has been developing scents with a leading nose in Grasse, France. He's launching a scent line called ISM (actually, Inno Sotto Mondo), broken down into three kinds: the lightest called Deauville (after the historic famous resort, where the likes of Chanel romped), Miro and Hunt.

Beyond gowns

Inno is at a stage in his life and career when he wants to go beyond gowns and custom-made clothes. "I want to be accessible to more and more people, men or women," he says, thus the perfume line. Inno is building Inno Sotto, the brand.

We wondered if he could support his perfume line with a high-powered marketing campaign—that's the only way to go in the perfume industry. And he says he will. In his Oct. 10 show at Ayala Museum, he'll launch a 60-second film on the perfume.

"I want to have visibility even without the shows, as in even if you go home, it's there," he says.

Indeed, Inno is expanding his horizon. Today, perfume; tomorrow, a home line. In time, he's not counting out returning to RTW. And he can do it. Watch him plan and execute.

Inno says he's in his "most settled stage in his life, emotionally." He actually finds life more interesting now.

He and his longtime companion, Richard Tann, have been so used to each other—they're like "second nature" to each other, in Inno's words. Richard, as usual, is helping Inno produce the show, which is also sponsored by Essences, Peugeot and Swatch, among others—all of them part of the Inno Sotto network.

"You know how it is like if you've been married for a long time, you're not conscious of roles anymore," Inno says of his 23-year relationship with Tann.

Inno's show is a tribute to women, for women have been the influence on his life—from his family to his close friends and muses, like Sam Eduque, Margarita Fores and Josine Elizalde.



PITOI Moreno

Joe, Inno, Auggie

At midlife now, Inno's more concerned about people close to him. The death of Joe Salazar drove home the point of how short life is, and how little the time one spends with friends and loved ones.

"Metro Weddings, years ago, was the last time we were all together, with Joe," he reminisces. "Wala na si Caloy (Badidoy), si Gang (Gomez) monk na. You realize Joe is really gone. You won't see him anymore."

Even in his drive to conquer, there are some moments Inno can turn pensive and reflective, like when we talk of the years gone by. At Joe Salazar's wake, a touching sight for me was to see Auggie Cordero and Inno—perceived rivals in the trade—seated beside each other in the chapel and, afterward, Inno attending to Auggie, offering him a glass of water and pushing him to eat.

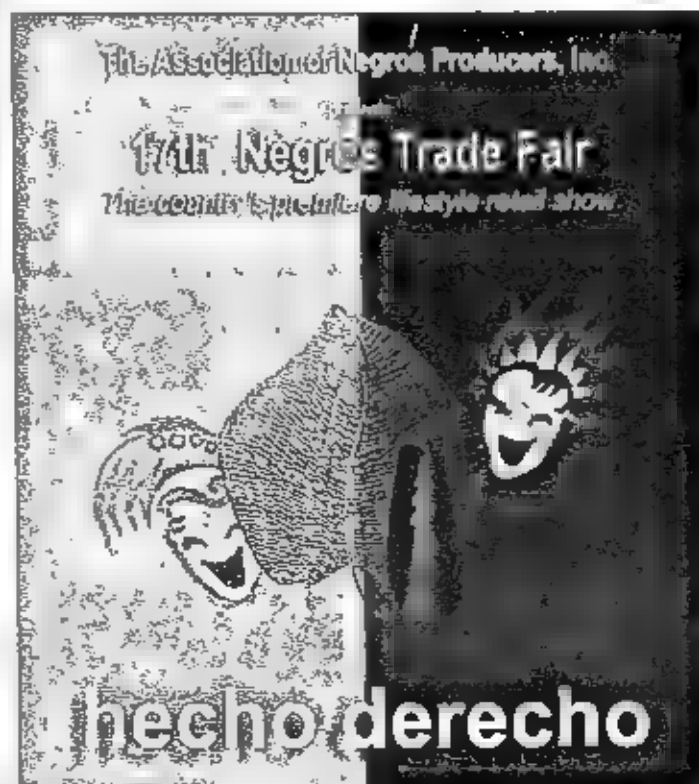
It's true, there is a small world of true achievers—products of the glorious era of Philippine fashion. They worked hard, fought each other hard—but also, cared well for each other.

"They (society) made an arena for us and presented all of us to be rivals," Inno says of the milieu he moves in. In fact, he says, it's not as fierce as that.

He may have a point, but truth is, they are worthy gladiators in that arena. And Inno will never leave the top. No, correction please, he will not budge from being No. 1. I'm raring to see that on Oct. 10.

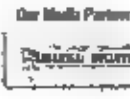
E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skynet.net

Pitoy Moreno and Inno Sotto must have the most strategic minds in Philippine fashion. They have charted the course of their careers with passion, savvy—and guts

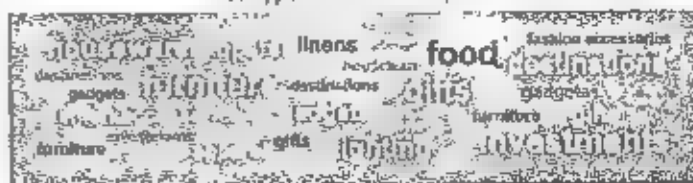


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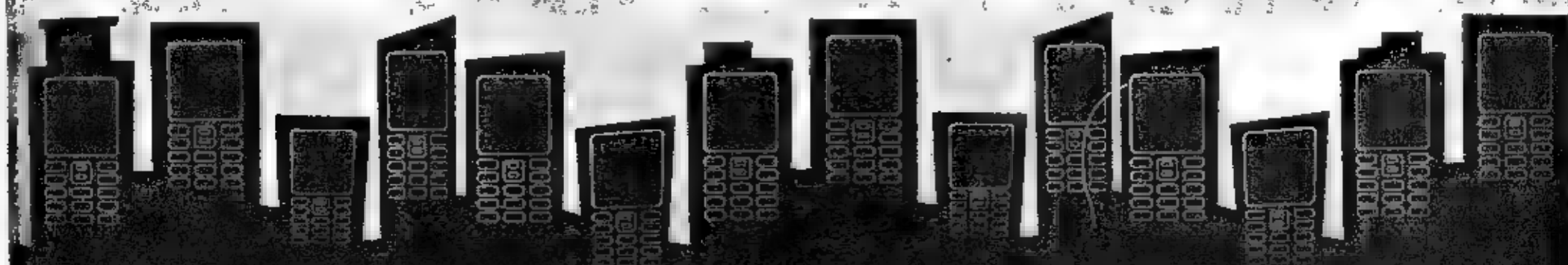
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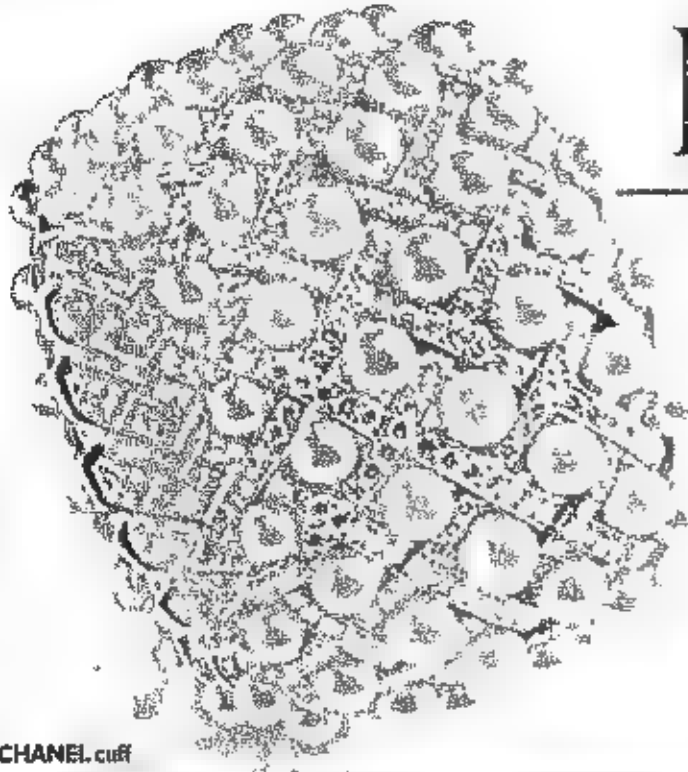


LIFESTYLE

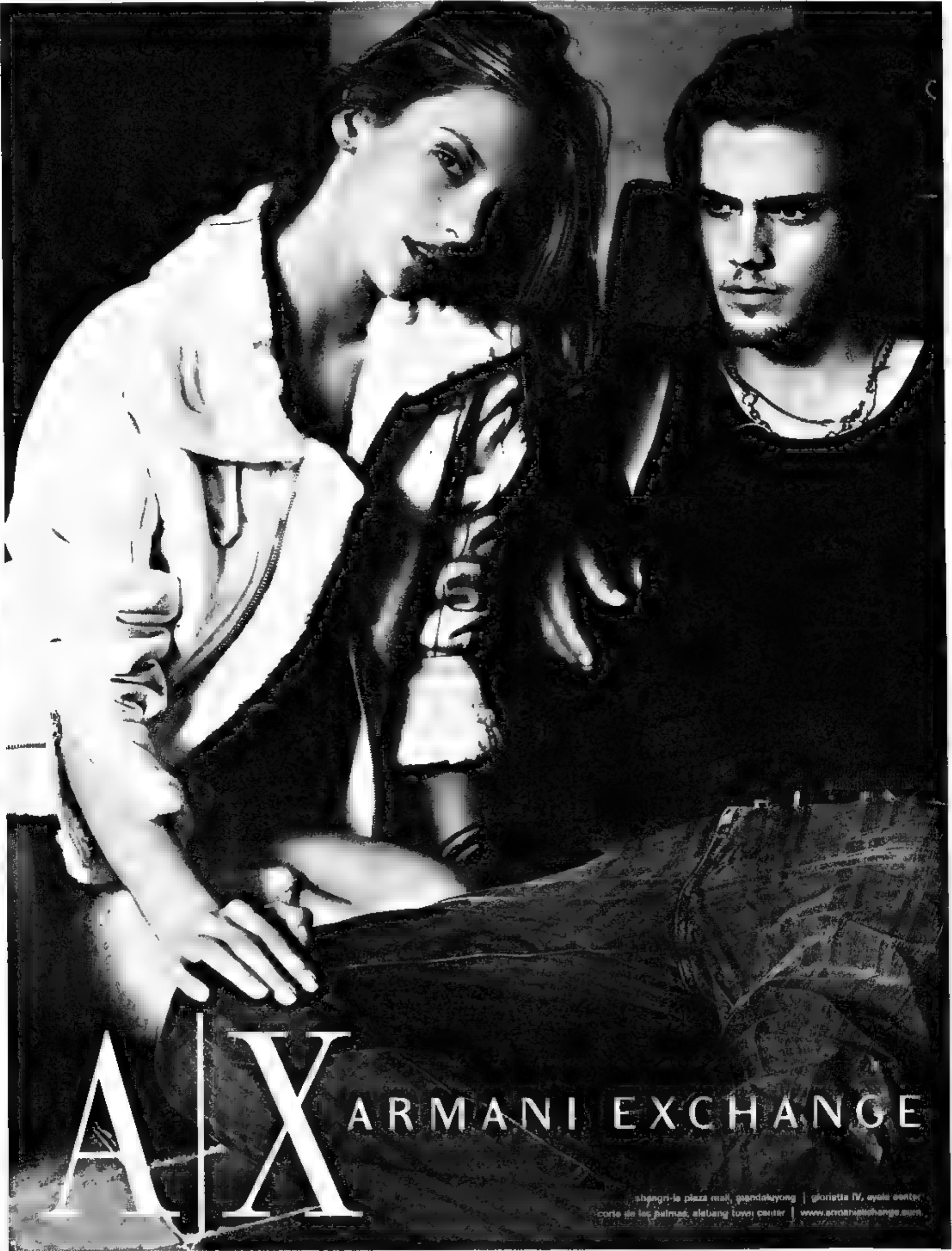
Power of pearls

A North American tour exhibit explores the romance of the pearl through history

STORY ON PAGE 1



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PROTOTYPE of
Audrey Hepburn's
multi-strand
imitation pearl
choker in "Breakfast
at Tiffany's"

Power of pearls

By Harriet Ann Dy
Contributor

TORONTO—Just as not all gentlemen prefer blondes, diamonds are not always a girl's best friend.

In mid-September, women were not the only ones who lightened up at the opening of "Pearls: A Natural History" exhibition; the Garfield Weston Hall of Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) itself basked in the luminosity of more than 600 pearl objects and close to half a million individual pearls.

Now on its second year, the show is the sixth and only Canadian stop in a traveling exhibition that began at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and will continue on to other cities like Tokyo and London.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect: With propriety and modesty back on the runways, no jewelry captures classic elegance more than pearls.

Who can forget Audrey Hepburn's timeless turn as Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"? The black dress, dark glasses and, of course, the multi-strand imitation pearl choker, a prototype of which is included in the exhibit.

And while Marilyn Monroe is better known as a diamond demon in the movie "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," according to Diamond Legend online, she only owned two valuable pieces of jewelry: An eternity ring and a set of 16-inch, 44-Mikimoto pearl necklace given to her by husband Joe DiMaggio.

She gave these pearls to her friend, Paula Strasberg, whose daughter, Susan, returned the set to Mikimoto America in 1998. The necklace is one of the exhibit's highlights.

History is replete with stories of women and their love affair with pearls, several of which are chronicled in the exhibit, from Queen Victoria's pearl and precious stone brooch to comic opera star Lillian Russell's Tiffany-designed floral brooch made from freshwater pearls, and Princess Marie Bonaparte's Cartier-designed leaf diara.

Organic value

Katherine Dunnell, one of the exhibit's curators and a geologist and collection technician with the ROM, credits the popularity of pearls to its organic nature. "Historically, people thought they were the tears of God," she says. "I think its main appeal is that it comes from the oyster or mussel perfect, with no need for faceting."

Glamour aside, "Pearls" peels away

the biological history of the gem and takes the viewer through the whole process of extracting from oysters, clams, conches and mussels the natural or Mikimoto way.

It also maps out the geography of pearl sources—from the Indian Ocean to the Venezuelan coast to the Caribbean—and takes the museum-goer through the physical and emotional price people make diving for these gems for profit.

"The rule of thumb is marine pearls tend to be more expensive than freshwater pearls," explains Dunnell. "Oysters only produce one pearl at a time, while freshwater mussels can produce upwards of up to 40 pearls at a time. This is not to say they are inferior; they are just more available and affordable."

Closer to home, our very own pearl divers, the Badjao, or "sea gypsies," take center stage with their legendary free-diving skills. A pair of bamboo diving goggles—the only diving gear for most Badjao—is on display. More significantly, the Central Gallery features the giant clam *Tridacna gigas* and a replica of the Pearl of Allah (better known as the Pearl of Lao-Tze these days), extracted from a similar mollusk in Palawan in 1934. At 14 pounds, it holds the distinction of being the biggest natural pearl in the world.

Pearl farm

In 1980, the Philippines was put on the world map as the host of the first modern pearl farm. A gold South Sea necklace by Jeweller is visual proof of this historical footnote. These days, however, "China is now home to the fastest-growing, highest-producing segment of the pearl industry."

Beyond jewelry, pearls have found their way to wedding gowns, like a heavily beaded design by Priscilla of

Boston, a favorite designer of White House ladies, another exhibit highlight. An exquisite mother-of-pearl Japanese tray from the 19th century made from natural pearls, cinnabar, lacquer, coral, camellian, enamel and silver is a personal favorite. A mother-of-pearl carving from the Philippines circa 1935 is just as intricate; as are a 17th-century Dutch carved nautilus cup, a pair of Parisian mother-of-pearl opera glasses, and even an 18th-century circumcision knife made from natural pearls, coral, gold, silver and marcasite.

Still, it's when pearls adorn the hands, the necks and ears of women that they are most dramatic, be it a parure set of natural half-pearls, emeralds, diamonds, silver, gold and enamel, or a 19th-century Cartier sautoir double pendant necklace with pearl tassel design and Cartier festoon necklace.

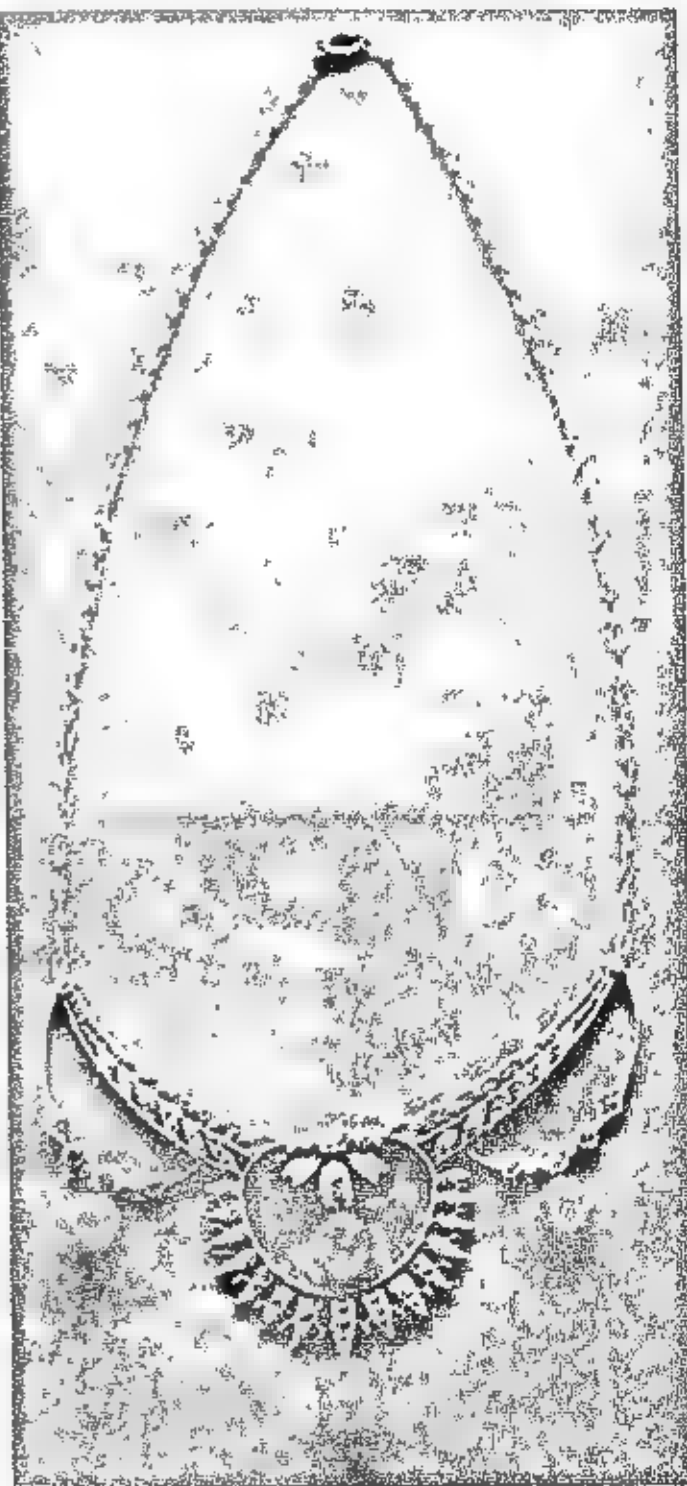
"The 10-11 mm and larger sizes are more desirable," says Dunnell. "There is also a trend toward conch pearls and very rare pink pearls. It is all about color and size this season."

Just recently, Birks Canada, a leading Canadian jeweler, reported an annual increase over last year in pearl sales of 13.6 percent, with necklaces as top sellers.

And if you are still thinking twice before shopping for your own pearls, consider this: First Lady Barbara Bush's three-strand pearls by Kenneth Jay Lane, which is part of the exhibit, are far from the real thing. But faux or not, pearls gave Dubya's moment an unforgettable fashion moment and, more important, a signature look.

"Pearls: A Natural History" is ongoing until Jan. 9, 2005, at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario. Visit www.rom.on.ca.

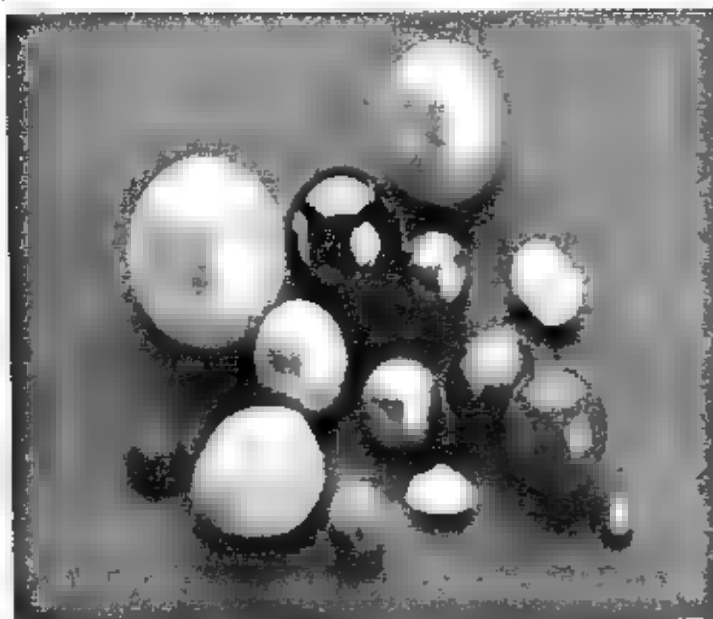
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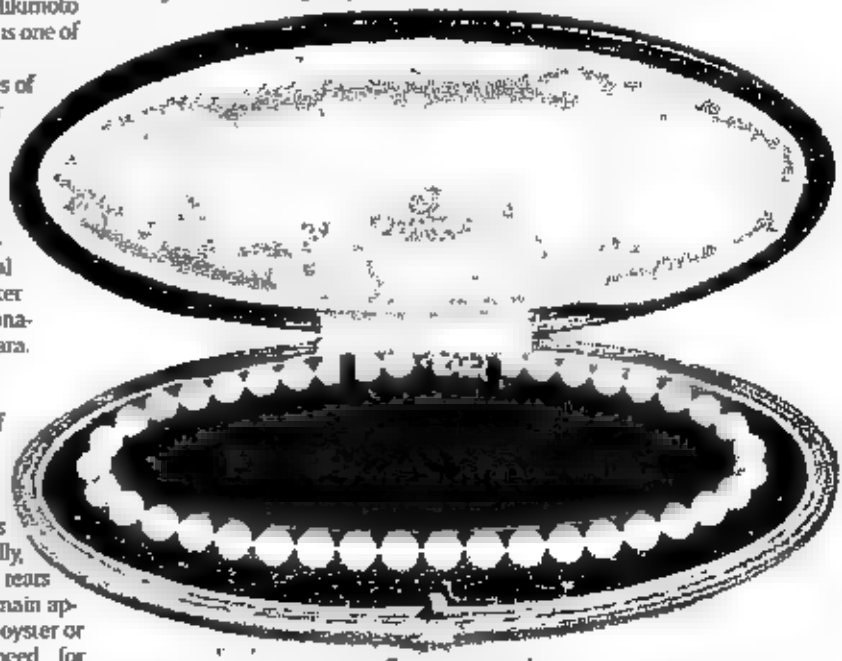
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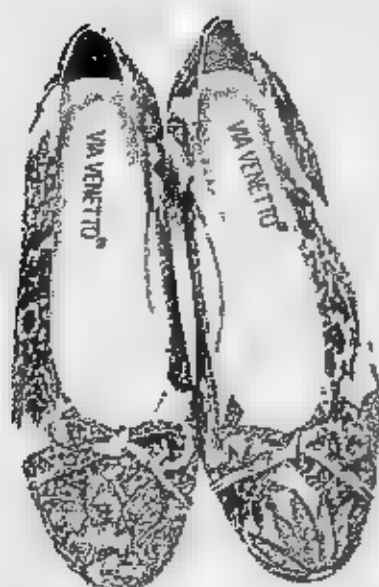


MARILYN Monroe's Mikimoto pearl necklace, a gift from Joe DiMaggio



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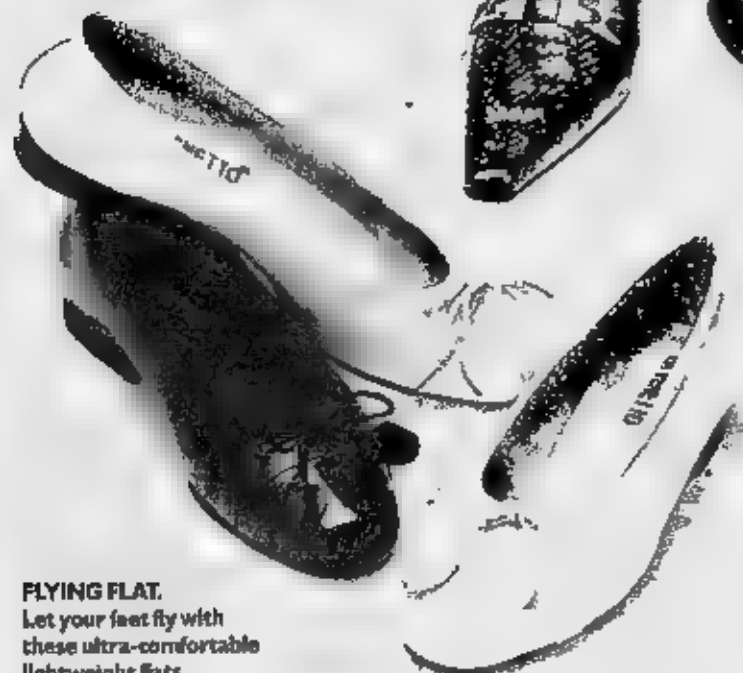
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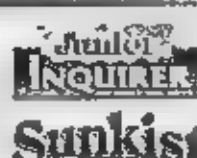


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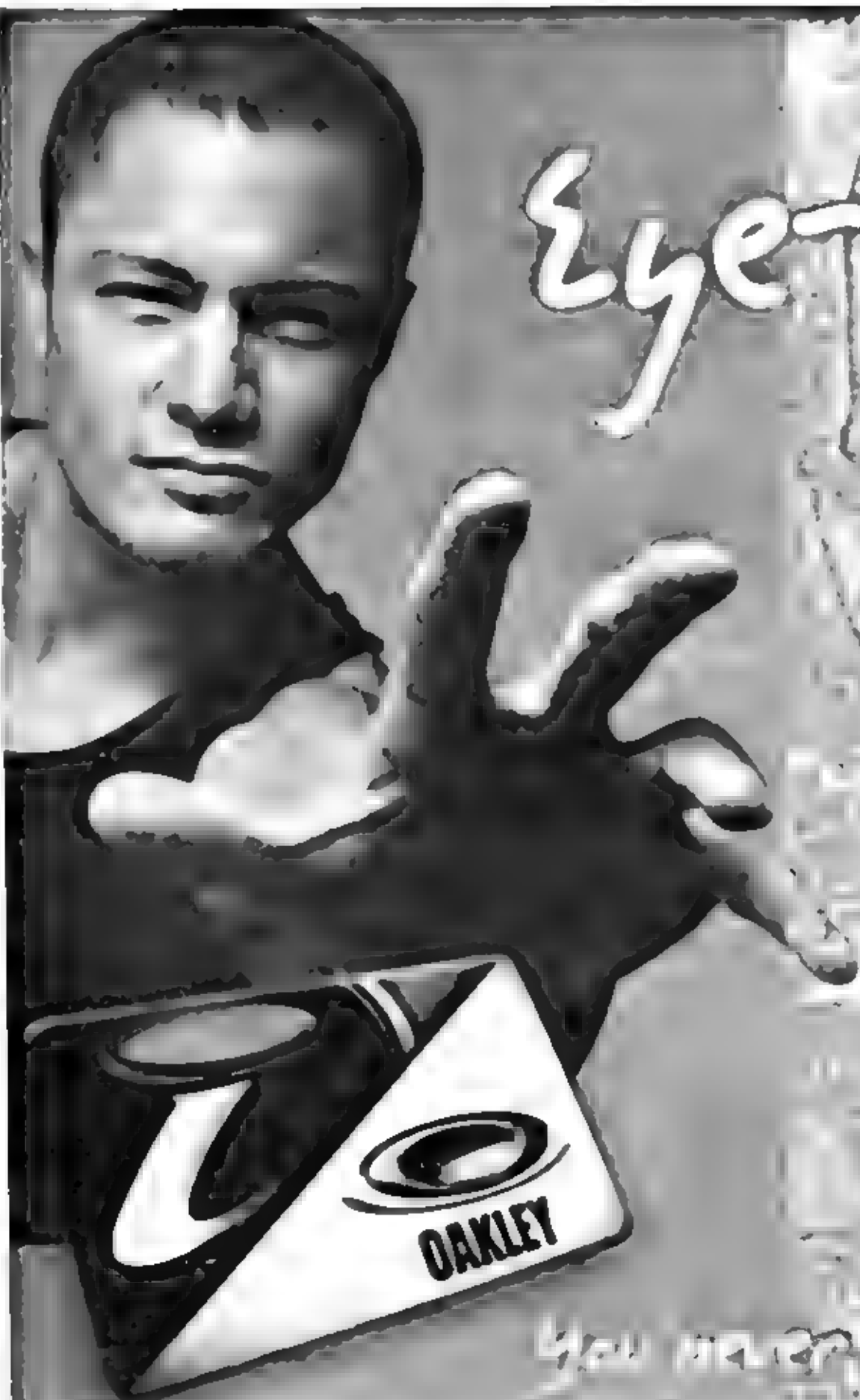
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Say 'Pretty!'

IN LOCAL beauty circles, I am often dubbed "the fearless one." I have tried almost everything—new gadgets, cosmetic procedures, outrageous makeup. I've even been ultra-blonde once!

Well, guess what? Miss Fearless is scared to death of the dentist and has not gone for a dental checkup or even cleaning in five years. My sister recently pointed out how yellow and stained my teeth were due to the huge amounts of caffeine I chug down daily. So I finally succumbed to teeth bleaching at Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center at the 5/F Shangri-La Edsa mall.

Besides, makeup artist Bobbi Brown says one surefire way to look younger is to have your teeth bleached. Coming from one of my favorite makeup gurus, that was the clincher I needed.

Teeth lightening via laser will set you back P20,000 for one session only. Dr. Shiela D. Geli first took a mold of my gums, then stuck in a contraption so my mouth would stay open. As with most laser/light machines, my eyes were then covered with goggles.

My teeth were very yellow, and it took a little over two hours to laser them. The usual time, so I was told, is 90 minutes. There were slight tingles (ngilo), but they were tolerable because I requested a desensitizer. I suggest you do so, too, so the discomfort would be minimal. There is no extra charge, anyway.

The good news about this procedure is, it only takes one session and you are set for two years. Yes, my teeth were worthy of any toothpaste commercial when I emerged

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



from the clinic.

The hassle was, I could not eat anything colored for a full week, and I had to wear the tooth tray for an hour every day for one week. Tingling, though, lasts for less than 24 hours.

Aside from the glorious white teeth I ended up with, I lost weight due to food restrictions. No coffee, tea, chocolate and colored food, so bye-bye, calories!

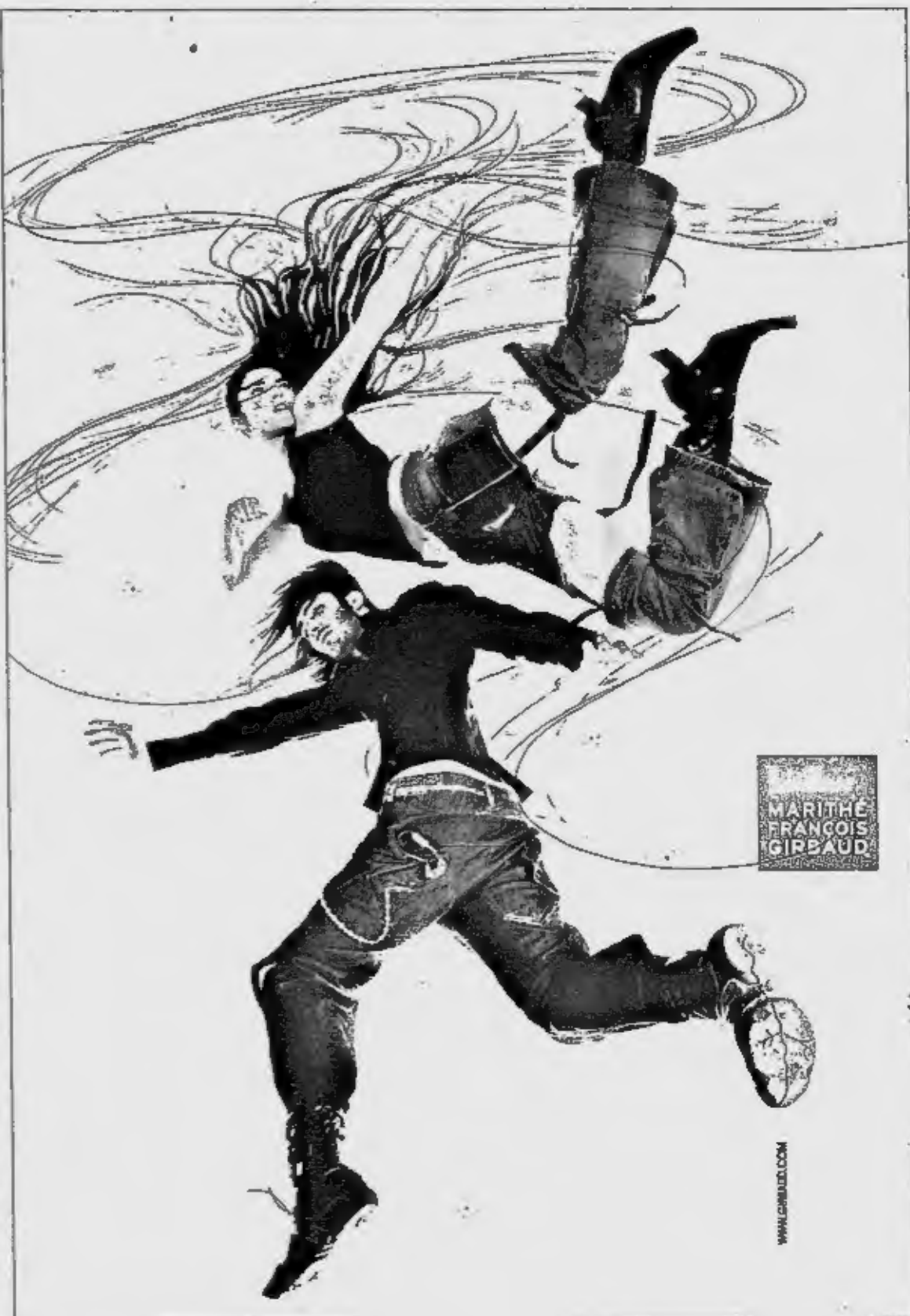
Shiseido sensation

I have always been biased for Japanese makeup and skincare because, in my experience, their quality is impeccable and the colors are all suited to Asian skin. Shiseido's Fall collection is no exception. Its colors

make for dramatic eyes and rich lips, but bare cheeks.

On model: eye-shadow in Nutmeg and Fire Opal on upper lids and Ruby Dazzle with black eyeliner on lower lids. Bare powdered cheeks but rich colored lips in Brown Profound lipliner and P12 Warm Cocoa Perfecting lipstick.

My choice picks from new products include the Lasting Lift Mascara, which defines and holds the curl of each lash without clumping, thanks to its spiral brush. It contains Air Volume Powder, guaranteeing that the pigment is so light it will hold the curl but won't weigh it



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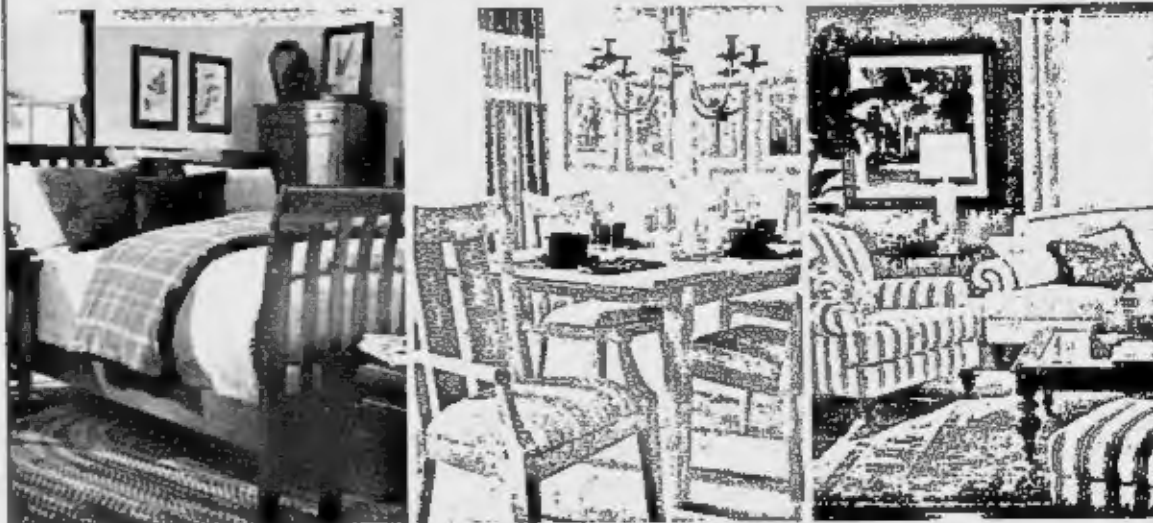
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Toast to Manila's best-dressed ladies



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INNO Sotto

THE HOTTEST ticket in town last week was the Philippine Tatler's yearly choice of Cosmopolitan Manila's 10 Best Dressed Women.

Since Tatler is the *numero uno* super high-end society magazine of the rich, famous and beautiful, it was no surprise that every VIP went to the Edge, where the affair was held. There, guests found the latest eye-catching showrooms tastefully designed by top designers Ed Calma, Tina Periquet and Martha Orosa-Uy.

As the high-heeled invitees made their entrance, colorful flowers and candles welcomed them, along with elegant acoustic renditions of popular songs. The place was set up in a willowy fabric, which was being blown by the Global City's breeze; the effect added character to the cocktail area.

Overflowing champagne, wine and martini by Tanqueray, superbly mixed by model Matt Hatfield, who was bar man, were served, along with yummy cocktail canapes prepared by the elegant Mandarin Oriental Hotel, palanggas.

Philippine Tatler editor Anton San Diego along with the colorful birthday celebrator, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, hosted the elegantly enjoyable program. They called the women of elegance on stage.

Giving out the awards were fashion plate Marissa Orosa, The Edge's first lady and wife of Philtown's hot chair, brilliant Joey Concepcion; Tatler managing director Irene Martel Francisco, and yours truly, who is the society editor of Tatler.

The fascinating women of class and style received fabulous gifts from Bulgari, Clarins Institute, Tivoli of Mandarin Oriental, Red of Makati Shangri-La, durable Prince Albert of Hotel InterContinental, Emphasis Salon and Beauty Bar.

The dazzling 10 women of the year included legendary beauty Tingting Cojuangco, who wore a Pitoy Moreno; society's dazzling lady of ladies, Mary Prieto; designer and style icon Bea Valdes; gorgeous Wendy Puyat Hotung, in a bustier draped silk cocktail outfit; the graceful Barbara Aboitiz, in a simple powder-blue silk chiffon ensemble; the elegantly regal Maricris Vazquez-Prada, in a chartreuse Inno Sotto; the stylishly stunning Sigalit Djemal, in an original Aviva gown by her aunt, no less; that gal of taste and breeding, slender Mons Romulo Tantoco; the trendy and ultra-fashionable Joyce Oresia; and woman with the four Bs Mia Borromeo.

They were all honored with their photographs gracing the pages of the Philippine Tatler and adorning the walls of the New York-type place. The photos were courtesy of Epsom.

Unable to be back in time for the grand happening was another recipient, who knows what being best dressed is all about: Beng Dee, who was still in picturesque Prague in Czechoslovakia, dahlings.

The classic looks of the trendy Tina Maristela Ocampo, fashionable Mandy Santos, warm and accommodating Lizzie Zobel, elegant Vicky Zubiri, individualistic Rina Ortiz, regal Nina Huang and chef du jour Margarita Fores were likewise displayed through photographs that gave more life to the walls of the Edge.

Today's hottest singing sensation, Jose Llana of Broadway's "Flower Drum Song" fame, serenaded the 10 women with his to-die-for voice and performance. He was applauded endlessly.

Leading the hotshot set were Philtown chair Joey Concepcion and president Rally Martinez, who attended to the guests and the

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcabe

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max



EIGHT of Tatler's 10 best-dressed dazzlers for 2004: Mary Prieto, Barbara Aboitiz, Wendy Hotung, Maricris Vazquez Prada, Joyce Oresia, Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Mia Borromeo and Bea Valdes. The two others on the list are Tingting Cojuangco and Sigalit Djemal.



TINGTING Cojuangco with Tatler's top woman Irene Martel Francisco, charity-oriented socialite Marissa Orosa Concepcion and mof, Tatler's Lifestyle and Society editor



PHILIPPINE Tatler editor Anton San Diego with New York boys Andy Bell, Augie Pacular, Broadway star Jose Llana and my favorite traffic-stopper, Tessa Prieto-Valdes



ROSE Toda and her husband, businessman Franco Delgado



MEGA architect and interior designer Ed Calma with wife Suzie

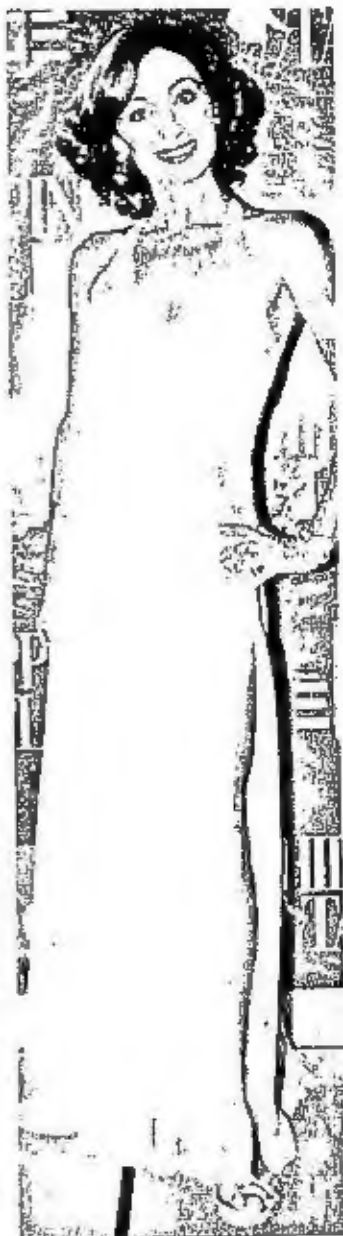
most minute details.

Among the guests were BMW president Jorge Breuer; fab Kit Zobel; one of Manila's hostesses with the mostest, Helen Ong; vibrant and fun Marivic Pineda; regal lady Justa Tantoco; fashion trailblazer Mellie Ablaza; Josie Lichauco; multifaceted head-turner Nini Licaros; Asia's king of fashion, Pitoy Moreno; legendary dean of fashion, Ben Parrales; Asia's prince of ultra moda, Inno Sotto; top cardiologist Dr. Randy Francisco; brilliant young designer Katrina Goulbourn; style chronicler Daphne Oseña; former Central Bank governor Jose Quisla; eye-catching Kay Tinga; Bulgari's Mario Katigbak; Louie and Cecile Ysmal; Dudo Vaca; Ines Delgado; Patrick Reyno; Jenni Epperson; Makati Shangri-La GM Jarlath Lynch; Hotel InterContinental GM Stefan Vooghe; and Peninsula's David Batchelor with his wife, Marilou.

Apres all the applause and kisses, the Golden 10 and guests went to several key parties, bars and upscale restos around town.

"Like all of Tatler's events, you can be sure you are with the best personalities around town," said a very pleased Lucille Villanueva as she rushed out of the Edge and dashed into her Mercedes for another happening.

Yes, dahlings, the Philippine Tatler is still the only magazine that brings the country's high life right to your doorsteps.



SIGALIT Djemal in gown by Israel's top couturier Aviva



RICH and famous. Mellie Ablaza, Helen Ong, business tycoon Louie Ablaza and Evie Costa



GORGEOUS Louise Petri, attractive Dorte Sorenson, Michael Nielsen of Filtra Inc., Tatler's chic Lynne Palma and Gery Puno of Rustan's Marketing Corp.



PENINSULA'S first couple David and Marilou Batchelor with HSBC banker James Banolt and his lovely wife, Lily

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